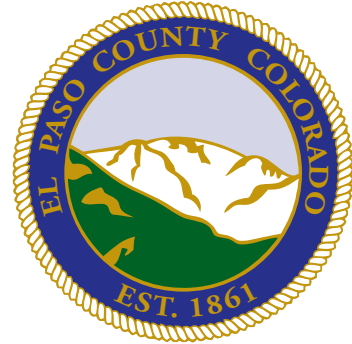


**This report underwritten by:**



Pikes Peak United Way



**In association with:**



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# Key Findings

The Quality of Life Indicators report for the Pikes Peak region is a tool for assessing how our region is performing in key areas. Of its 11 focus areas, this year's report reveals significant challenges for the region, as well as some noteworthy accomplishments.

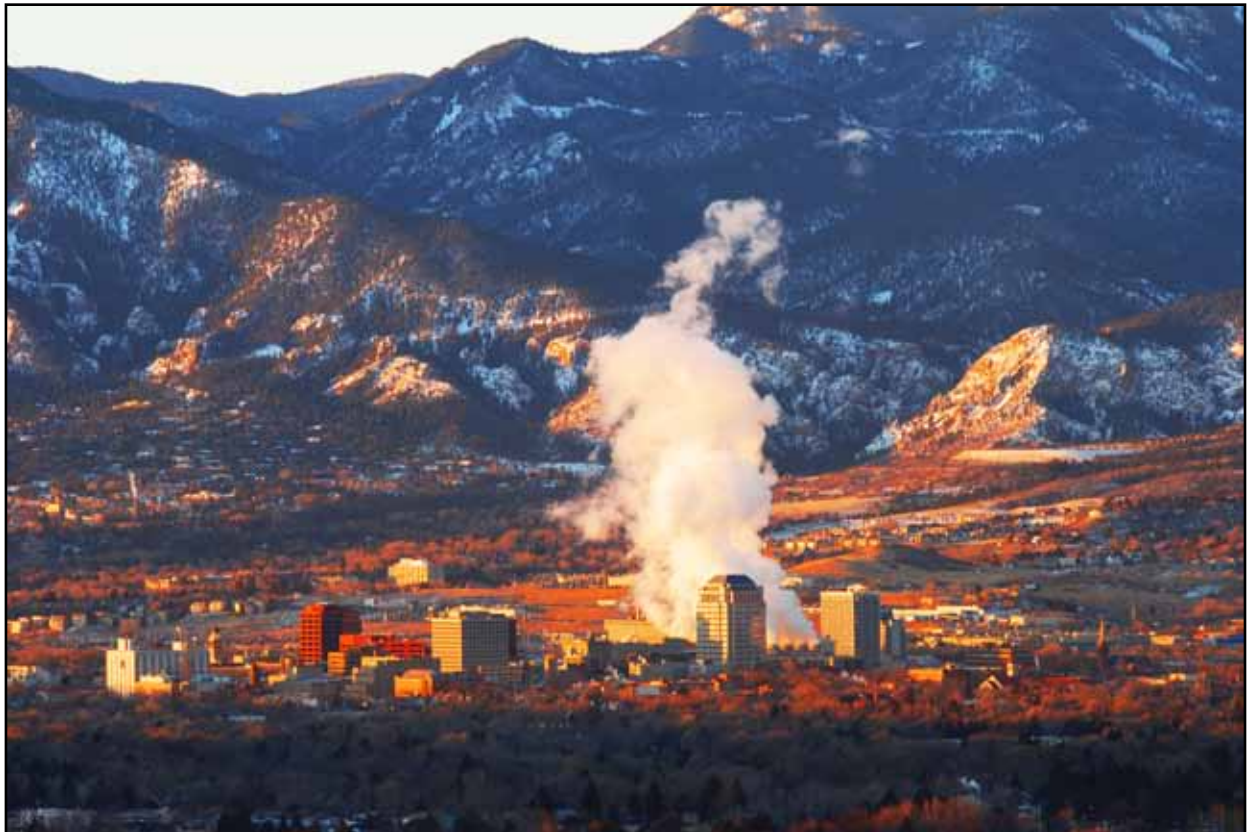
## Economy

A recession has manifested itself in many aspects of the community, creating a ripple effect on poverty levels, health care access, demand for basic needs assistance, and a host of other effects. As this report was published, Colorado Springs' unemployment rate nearly tripled from 2000 to 2012, increasing from about 3 to 9 percent, and it remains higher than the state and national averages.

the high-tech manufacturing and information technology sectors, which for the past several decades have been main elements of the local economic base. The loss of those primary jobs has contributed to the severity of the recent recession.

The region's young working population continued to decline and remains below the 30 percent critical threshold used by many site-selection consultants; meanwhile, many of our benchmark cities are seeing an increase in their young workforce.

Despite these factors, Colorado Springs was ranked 57 of 200 best performing large cities in 2012, based on job creation, economic performance and the high-tech sector. We moved up from 99 in 2010.



Photograph by Justin Williford

In the last decade, the Colorado Springs MSA has stagnated in terms of jobs and income. More than just the result of the recession, this is a longer-term trend for our region.

According to a study by Summit Economics, the Colorado Springs economy is currently struggling to find a new direction. The popping of the tech bubble and off-shoring of a large number of local manufacturing jobs has eroded

Our region has long enjoyed a reputation as a health and wellness destination, thanks to spectacular views of Pikes Peak, ample recreational opportunities and the presence of the U.S. Olympic Committee and Training Center. These traits have a major impact on the daily quality of life of residents, and sustain a major sector of the economy: tourism.

## Community Engagement

Our successes have come when the community has banded together. The region has recently experienced two devastating fires, each in its turn making history for the tremendous toll taken on our homes and open spaces. But the bright spot in that dark time was the outpouring of community support and generosity for first responders and evacuees, and the determination and cooperation of volunteers, local governments, area non-profits and regional businesses to achieve a swift and effective recovery. A year later, 63 percent of homes destroyed by the Waldo Canyon fire have been rebuilt.

In 2008, 78 percent of registered voters went to the polls for the presidential election; turnout jumped to 91 percent in 2012. The Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority, a community-initiated, regionally-governed sales tax for transit, road and bridge improvements, was renewed with 80 percent approval. Neighbors in 32 area neighborhoods came together to form organized associations over the past 5 years, bringing the total to 200.

## Fire and Flood

Two destructive wildfires swept through Pikes Peak region neighborhoods in 2012 and 2013, costing the community homes, open spaces and considerable dollars, and affecting multiple quality of life indicators.

Though data is not yet available for the 2013 Black Forest Fire, the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire affected 52,000 people and more than 26,000 buildings. Fighting the fire cost the

City of Colorado Springs about \$4 million, and required all the city's personnel and equipment, as well as assistance from neighboring communities and a host of volunteers. Our region now faces a 350 percent increase in debris flow off the burn scar, and at least a decade of heightened flood risk. Ongoing flood mitigation efforts and storm water systems that receive burn-scar water cost an additional \$17 million from city reserves and other sources. At press time, the community had already seen five flood-related fatalities.

Fire is a necessary part of forest and grassland ecosystem maintenance, establishing healthier vegetation. Fire, in its normal historical cycle, cleaned up dead or dying stands of vegetation; reduced competition for water and nutrients, and cleared extra debris. These periodic fires were frequent, low-intensity burns. Development in forested areas means threats to people, their homes, infrastructure and businesses, forcing fire departments and forest services to rapidly extinguish fires, inhibiting the natural cleaning process, resulting in overgrown and diseased vegetation. Danger to homes is affected by factors such as how close homes are to each other, mitigation efforts and construction materials. In turn, this has perpetuated high-intensity fires, which spread rapidly and sterilize soil components, leading to hydrophobic soil, massive debris flow and destructive flooding. These conditions will last for 10-20 years, until sufficient vegetation regrowth occurs.

Managing fire threat means intensive mitigation practices near homes and businesses, and perhaps a thoughtful community discussion about the cost, risks and values of building in the wildland-urban interface.



Top Photograph courtesy of the City of Colorado Springs. Bottom Photograph by Steven "Smitty" Smith

## Health and Hospital Systems

Many of the report's researchers have identified a coming challenge: though we like to think of ourselves as an exceptionally active, healthy community, we are rapidly becoming less so.

Though our region retains its high marks for recreational opportunities and participation, obesity rates are rising. And as the resulting need for healthcare grows, the number of primary care physicians that can address the need has dropped. The MSA also has a shortage of psychiatrists. Suicide rates remain higher than the state and national averages, continue to rise, and are a leading cause of death among adolescents and young adults.

The area's two hospital systems are top performers. Penrose-St. Francis received a ranking in Healthgrades America's 50 Best Hospitals. Both Penrose-St. Francis and Memorial hospital systems are currently seeking level 1 trauma certification, the highest level offered by the state's Department of Public Health and Environment. Certification requires 24/7 access to specialty surgeons, high-tech monitoring and surgical equipment, the ability to perform minimally-invasive surgery, and treat the very worst trauma cases. Only four hospitals in the state currently have the certification, and all of them are in Denver.

## Aging Population

The continued significant increase in the number of aging baby boomers requires services to maintain a high quality of life and opportunities to cultivate the strengths of this population. Physical activity, nutrition and social opportunities are critical for the health, wellness and quality of life of this rapidly-increasing population.

According to the Milken Institute's 2012 Best Cities for Successful Aging report, the Colorado Springs MSA has more than 65,000 individuals aged 65 or older, which represents more than 10 percent of the population. By 2015, that population will increase to more than 82,000.

The Milken Institute ranked Colorado Springs 39 of 200 large cities for successful aging for individuals aged 65-79, and USA Today named the city a top place to retire. But much work remains to be done to adequately serve the needs of a population growing so rapidly. A 2010 community summit on aging identified the following key areas to address the area's aging population's needs: affordable housing, transportation, medical facilities, assisted living facilities, volunteerism, second careers and needed services.

## Other notable findings in the region

- After the formation of the Not One More Child Coalition in 2012, child abuse or neglect deaths dropped to the lowest since 2007. However, for the fifth year in a row, El Paso County received the most child abuse and neglect referrals of all Colorado counties.
- Current funding is insufficient to address stormwater infrastructure needs, threatening roads, bridges, homes, and water quality for residents and downstream neighbors.
- Wait time for the two largest programs which provide affordable housing average more than five years. Data points to the significant gap between the need and its availability.
- The shift from urban residential permitting to more rural residential permitting indicates where growth is heading in the region. In the Colorado Springs MSA, residential growth is headed outward into El Paso County, sprawling away from the urban core.
- A lack of density results in services like utilities, emergency responders and transportation stretched thin and more cost for citizens. In the case of transportation, low density makes a comprehensive public transit system virtually unsupportable.
- The use of metropolitan districts as a development, maintenance and governance tool has increased, largely unnoticed by citizens. Metropolitan districts function as independent quasi-municipal governments and have the power to issue tax-exempt debt. Cities and counties can benefit from such districts as a means of developments paying for themselves. However, special districts can also lead to issues including less clarity as to who is responsible for what costs and services, differential taxation, and equity or representational concerns.
- 10th grade reading and 10th grade math proficiency continues to be a challenge in the Colorado Springs MSA as the majority of school districts represented did not meet Colorado Department of Education benchmarks.
- The rate of sexual assault in Colorado Springs is the highest in the State of Colorado and three times the national average.
- Our violent crime rate is below the national average. The percentage of crimes solved in Colorado Springs is higher than the national average.

# About the Quality of Life Indicators report

## Report Goals

The Quality of Life Indicators Report for the Pikes Peak Region is a community effort to evaluate our region's health in 11 key areas. Vision Councils, groups of experts and advocates in each of the 11 focus areas, volunteer their time and expertise to gather and evaluate pertinent data. An executive committee, also comprised of community volunteers, oversees the continuity of the report. The report originated in 2007, after Pikes Peak United Way's Howard Brooks and Jerry Smith recognized the need for such benchmarking information and gathered the necessary community support and resources to publish the first edition. The report is now produced every two years.

QLI's goal is to be a reliable, objective source of information over time. Researchers hope the report will be used by elected officials, business and community leaders, nonprofit and advocacy groups, and individual citizens to make informed fiscal and policy decisions.



## Area of Study

QLI assesses the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area. An MSA is a geographical region with a high population at its core and strong economic ties throughout the area. MSAs are determined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, and are used by such federal government entities as the Census Bureau for statistical purposes.

In most cases, an MSA is centered on a single city; in the case of our community, the Colorado Springs MSA includes all of El Paso and Teller counties, and is outlined here in purple. The area is often referred to as the Pikes Peak region.

## Comparison MSAs

Throughout the report, quality of life indicators are frequently benchmarked to other Western metropolitan statistical areas. These regions have been chosen for a variety of reasons, including similar demographics and available comparable data. In some cases, local data is compared to trends in cities across Colorado's Front Range, or to the state average.

## More information



Throughout the report, links between indicators are noted with this symbol.

Also, leading agencies are noted for readers who want to learn more about a subject, volunteer their time, or donate resources.



# About the Colorado Springs MSA

## History

Prior to settlement by Europeans, the Pikes Peak region was part of an area frequented by largely nomadic Native Americans, principally the Utes. The Pikes Peak gold rush of 1858 led to the establishment of El Paso County, and the City of Colorado Springs was formed in 1871 with founder General William Jackson Palmer's vision as an ideal, cultured Western town. In 1899, Teller County was created by carving out the western slope of Pikes Peak, which had been part of El Paso County, and the northern portion of Fremont County.

The region's early history was shaped by competition to create a railroad system, the perceived benefits of our dry air on tuberculosis treatment, and the resulting importance of developing medical treatment facilities. The predominance of higher education institutions, tourism, military bases, amateur sports, technology, and national nonprofit organizations also influence our region.

The MSA encompasses more than 2,717 square miles: 2,158 in El Paso County and 559 in Teller County. There are substantial differences between the two counties. Teller averages 42 people per square mile, while El Paso's density averages 293. With an area of 286 square miles, the City of Colorado Springs greatly inflates that, at an average density of 2,238 people per square mile. The western portion of the region is extremely mountainous; the eastern part is high prairie. The altitude ranges from 5,095 feet on the southern border to 14,117 feet on the summit of Pikes Peak.

## Major employers and industries

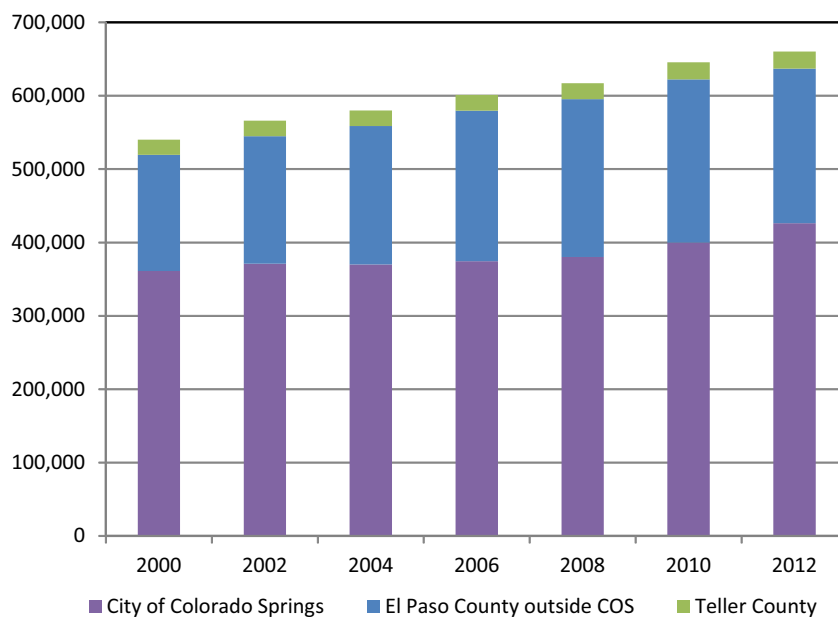
The region's economy is largely dependent on government-related employment. Of the 13 largest employers in the county, 10 are governmental, including public school systems. In the eastern part of El Paso County, income from dairy farming and beef ranching provides the main source of ranchers' livelihoods. In Teller County, tourism-related businesses provide the greatest number of jobs.

Major local industries include:

- Aerospace/Defense/Homeland Security
- Biotechnology/Medical Device Manufacturing
- Customer Service Operations
- Data Networking/Storage
- Information Technology
- National Sports Governing Bodies and Sports Organizations
- National Nonprofit Organizations
- Semiconductor Manufacturers/Research and Development
- Specialty Metals Manufacturing

In 2013, the median household income is \$57,111.

## Colorado Springs MSA Population



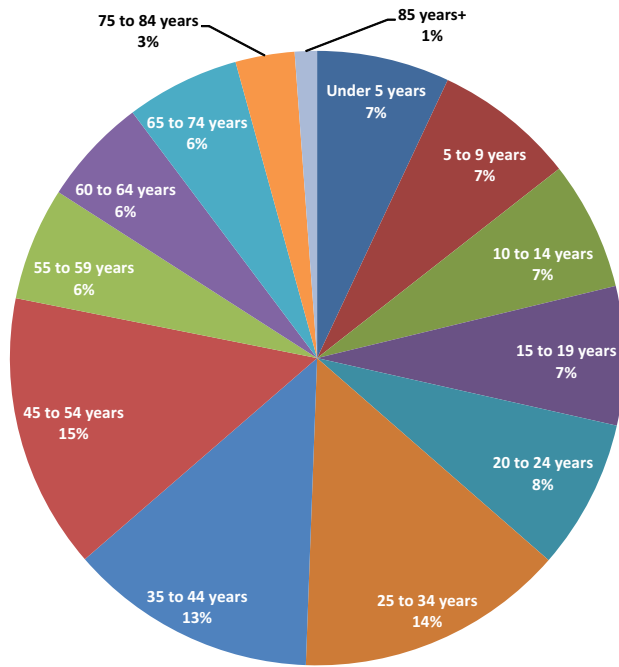
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Population demographics

Population growth at any level has a significant impact on our quality of life. Planning for growth or lack of growth is critical as we adjust to changing times and economies.

With more than 660,000 people in our region, our MSA remains the fastest-growing in the state, up 22 percent from 2000 to 2012. We've also grown faster than any of our comparison MSAs, or the nation, whose population increased over this same period by less than 10 percent. Births have grown moderately but consistently, outnumbering deaths, and net migration continues to be positive (more people move here than move away.) The greatest growth in both El Paso and Teller counties has occurred outside of incorporated cities and towns.

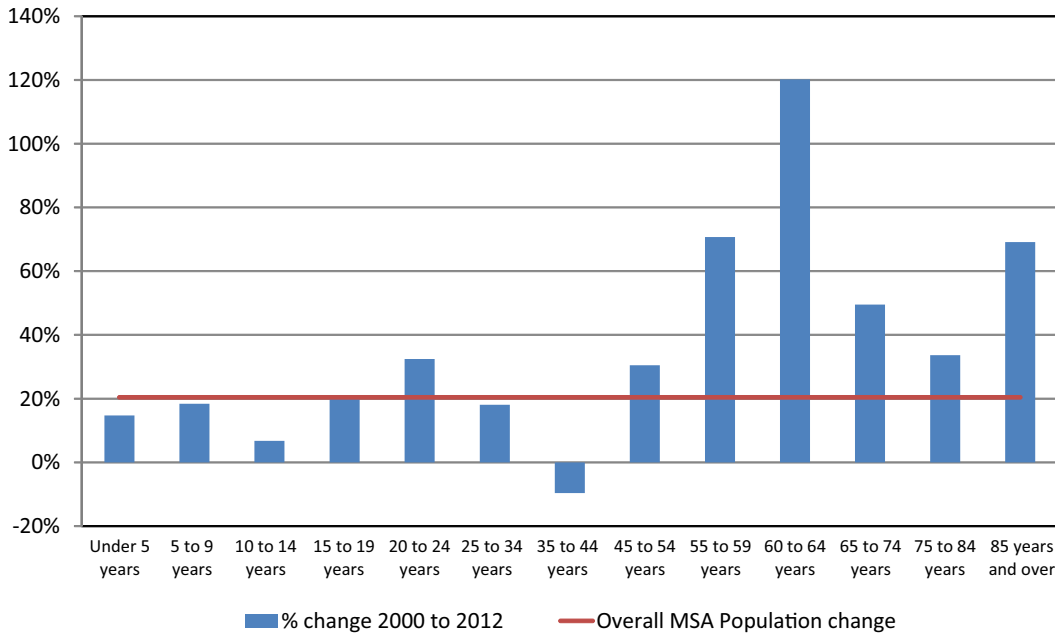
## Colorado Springs MSA Population by Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

In 2012, the age of our population is evenly distributed. The interesting point is illustrated in the graph below, which shows how we got to where we are today and how we are trending toward the future.

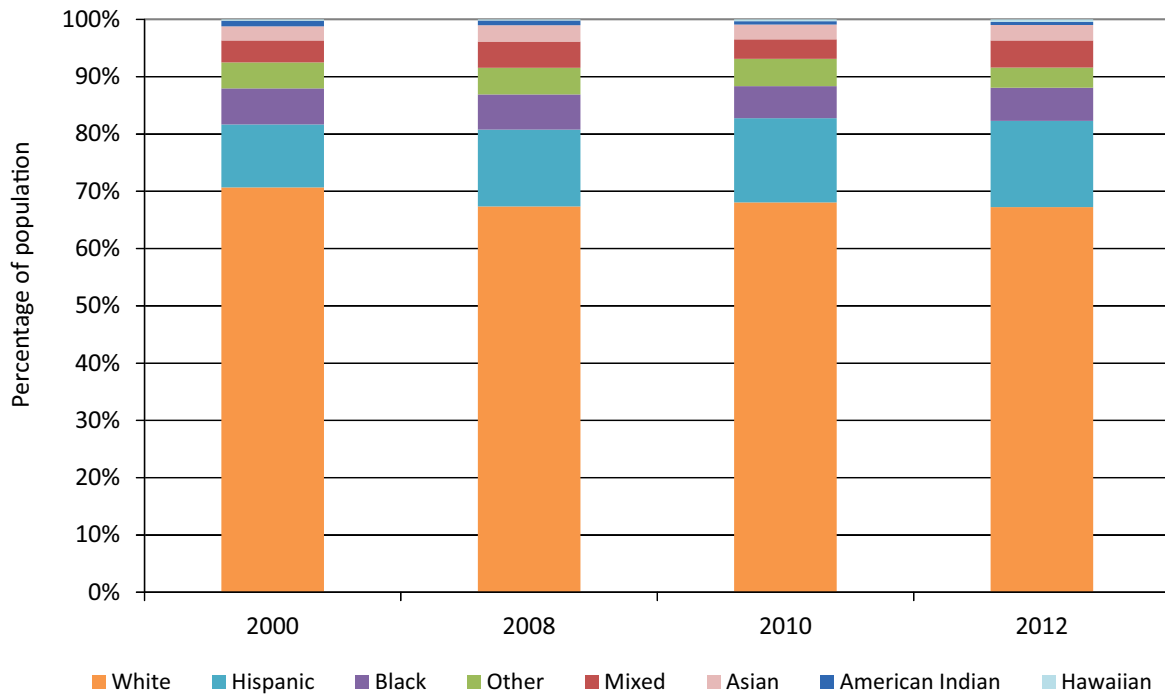
## Colorado Springs MSA Change in Age Composition of Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder 2002-2012 MSA Data

Our population is getting older, just as it is in Colorado and the United States. In 2002, 12 percent of our population was 60 or older. In 2012, 16 percent of our population was 60 or older. Young workers, categorized as 25 to 44 years old, have declined from 31 percent of the region's population in 2006 to about 27 percent. The percent of school-aged children has also decreased.

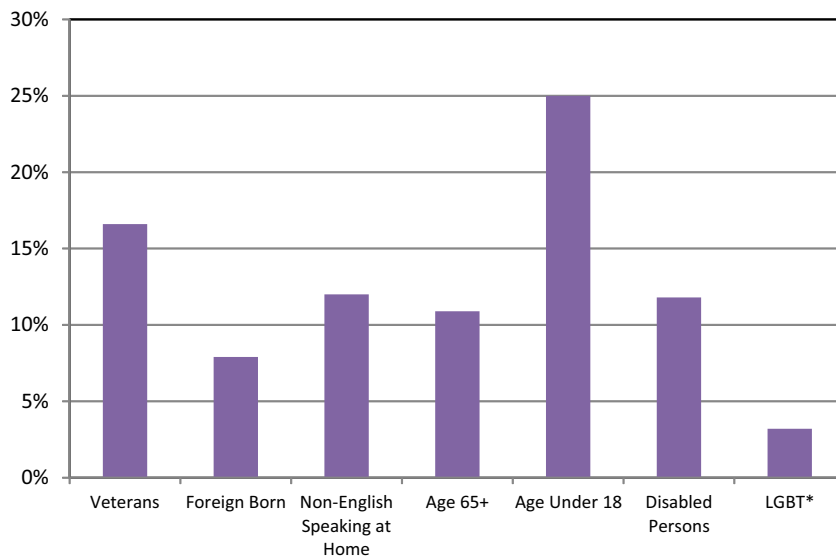
## Colorado Springs MSA Population by Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Comparing the Colorado Springs MSA to the entire nation, we have a higher percentage of non-Hispanic white residents and lower percentages of Hispanic/Latino, Black and Asian residents. The number of Hispanic residents has grown slightly and the number of white residents declined since 2000. The percentages of other ethnic populations in the region have remained largely unchanged in the same period.

## Selected non-racial demographics of current population

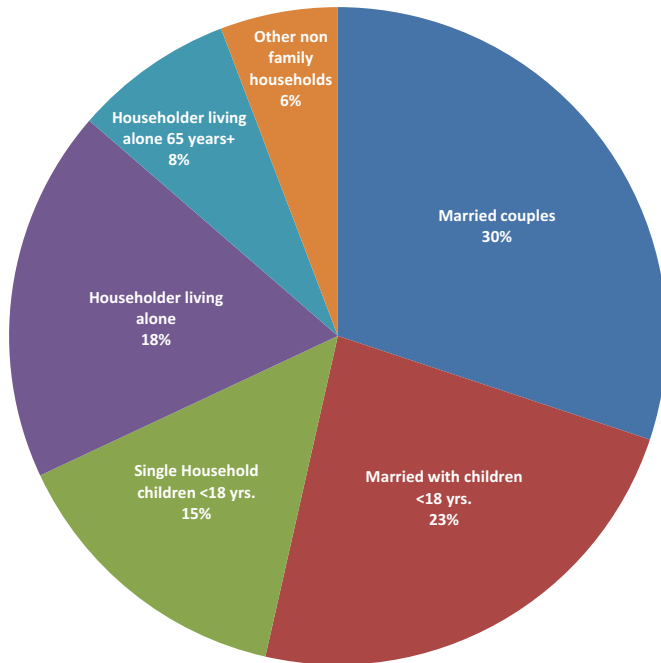


\* Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender: only Colorado statewide data available for this status

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and 2013 Gallup Poll

Population diversity has evolved over the years to mean much more than merely race and ethnicity. Diversity means differences and similarities including social class, religion, gender and sexuality, age, immigration status, values, beliefs, backgrounds, preferences and behaviors. There are hundreds of variances in individuals that demonstrate the array of peoples within a community. This chart provides a snapshot of some of the area's diverse characteristics.

## Household Composition



Source: U.S. Government Census, MSA Business Patterns

Households in the MSA reflect differences in family composition, and recognizing these differences helps us understand how to support the wellbeing of residents.

The highest percentage of households in the MSA are married households without children at home, followed by married couples with children under the age of 18. Singles living alone and singles with children also make up significant percentages of the population.

It's important to consider changes in demographics. What are the impacts of an aging population? What does the decline in the number of young professionals mean? How will we be impacted by the increasing number of retirees and veterans in our population? Can we and should we influence these demographics, and, if so, how?



Photograph by Neil Podoll



# Arts

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**NATHAN WILLERS**  
Colorado Springs Philharmonic

**JOHN WILSON**  
Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance



*Photograph by Bryan Oller*

The arts play a critical role in community identity and vitality, mental health, and business and workforce attraction. Evidence exists that when we invest in the arts, not only will our region reap economic benefits and improve quality of life, we also foster vibrant neighborhoods and urban revitalization. The nonprofit industry, unlike most industries, leverages a significant amount of event-related spending by its audiences. For example, when patrons attend an arts event, they dine beforehand, shop nearby or stay in a hotel if visiting from elsewhere. According to the COPPeR Economic Prosperity Survey, audiences in the Colorado Springs MSA spend an average of \$25.89 per person, excluding admission, in relationship to each arts event.

### Highlights in 2012 and 2013 include:

Downtown Colorado Springs was named a Prospective Creative District by the State of Colorado. The designation includes grant funding and technical assistance to grow the local arts scene and capitalize on existing efforts. Funds are helping to kick off Sidewalk Stage, a new street performance program downtown.

COPPeR (the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak region) launched Peak Arts Fund, an annual, combined fundraising campaign to strengthen area arts nonprofits. Peak Arts Fund encourages a broader segment of the community to enjoy and support the arts through workplace giving, in-kind donations to the Peak Radar Pass and employee-engagement activities.

Art on the Streets, an annual competition and yearlong exhibit in downtown, is in its 15th year. Nearly 200 pieces have been displayed since its inception. The program has influenced the purchase of more than 50 pieces of public art in Colorado Springs and inspired public art programs in suburban developments.

Coordinated monthly art walks and gallery openings are thriving in downtown Colorado Springs, Old Colorado City, Manitou Springs, Woodland Park and in the Tri-Lakes area.

Art in Storefronts was launched, turning empty downtown real estate into tiny art galleries with non-commercial art installations, creative businesses or pop-up shops. The project brightens the downtown area, increases foot traffic, and showcases local artists. The selected installations are temporary, and all properties remain for lease throughout the presence of the project.

The Colorado Springs MSA enjoys numerous ways to enjoy live music from local, regional and touring national acts. Bars, nightclubs and dedicated small music venues provide original-music performers the opportunity to play in front of hometown audiences year-round. A wide range of musical genres is represented by popular music performers in the Colorado Springs MSA. Jazz, blues, folk, rock and roll, rap/hip-hop, heavy metal, electronic, and experimental/avant garde musicians all share a home and stages throughout El Paso and Teller counties. During the summer, live music is frequently encountered in parks, restaurants and private venues not typically known for showcasing musical performances. More than 20 free

concert series means music can be enjoyed every night of the week. The Pikes Peak region has no mid-size venue (that can accommodate more than 1,000-2,000 people) that cater to local or regional popular music acts. The Pikes Peak Center and World Arena are both able to seat audiences of 2,000 and nearly 8,100 people (respectively) but almost exclusively feature national touring acts and performers.

The Colorado Springs Philharmonic's free Summer Symphony series returned with three outdoor concerts, including one in honor of the Waldo Canyon Fire anniversary.

Arts funding continues to be a challenge as budgets tighten and competition for private philanthropy increases.

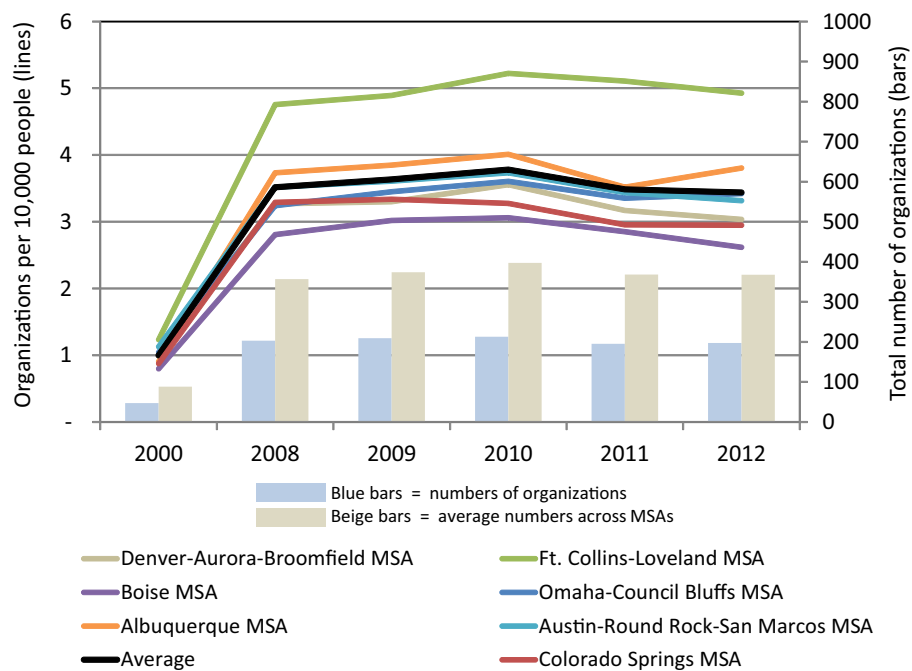
The following indicators help us understand what arts, culture and creative industry opportunities exist, how they are supported, and whether we participate. All indicators studied were affected by density and population in the geographic area served, funding sources and amounts, and the recent recession.

*Photograph courtesy of The Downtown Partnership*





# Arts Nonprofit Organizations



**This chart** shows the number of arts, culture and humanities organizations in the Colorado Springs MSA, including theater and dance companies, art museums and galleries, and history museums and preservation organizations. Attractions such as zoos and visitor centers are not included.

Blue bars show the number of organizations and beige bars indicate averages across metropolitan statistical areas.

The chart shows a large increase in the average number of organizations from 2000 (1 per 10,000) to 2008 (3.5 per 10,000.)

Source: National Center on Charitable Statistics

## Why is this important?

The number of arts organizations reflects a growing national trend of decentralization: for example, communities may now have a number of small dance companies, whereas in the past, it may have included just one large ballet company. The number of smaller, niche arts organizations is increasing.

## How are we doing?

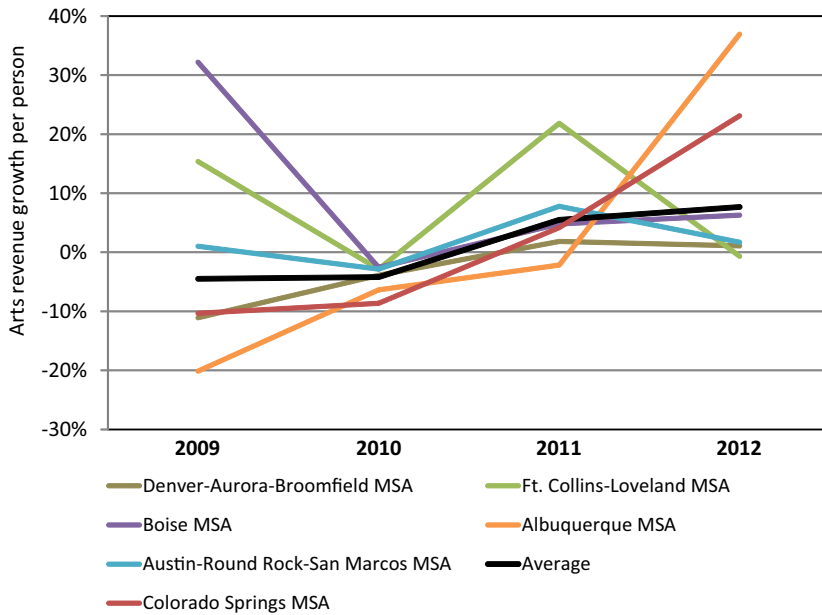
The number of arts, culture and humanities organizations has shown strong growth, expanding in the last two decades consistently with increases in population in the county. However, on average, the Colorado Springs MSA remains 5 to 15 percent behind comparison cities.



Photograph by Bryan Oller

## Arts Nonprofits Revenue

### Arts Revenue Growth per Person



**The first chart** shows changes in revenue streams to arts-related nonprofits in the last four years. Data shown has been normalized for population and is shown per person.

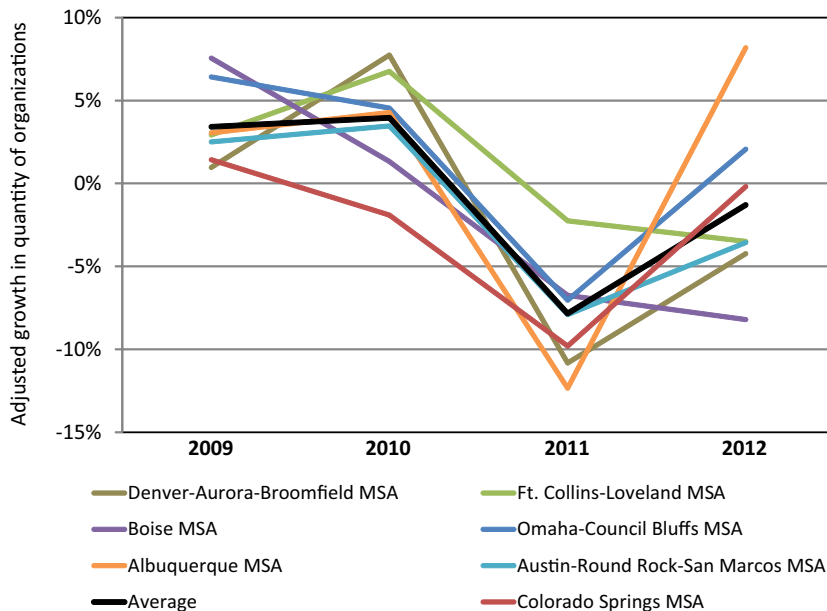
#### Why is this important?

Arts funding, especially from public sources such as government grants, is particularly vulnerable during economically tough times. When budgets are tight and funders must make tough decisions, arts are often seen as optional. But the arts create jobs, attract tourist revenue, help attract and retain an educated workforce, teach school children critical-thinking skills, and strengthen communities.

#### How are we doing?

In 2009, arts funding in the Colorado Springs MSA was about 10 percent below the average of funding in comparison cities. Funding has grown in the past three years and has caught up to the average of all cities studied.

## Arts Nonprofits Growth Rates



**The second chart** shows the growth and decline of the number of arts-related nonprofits in the last four years and is related to the preceding chart, which shows funding in the same period. As arts funding dipped post-recession, many arts organizations, particularly small, independent ones, were forced to close their doors.

#### Why is this important?

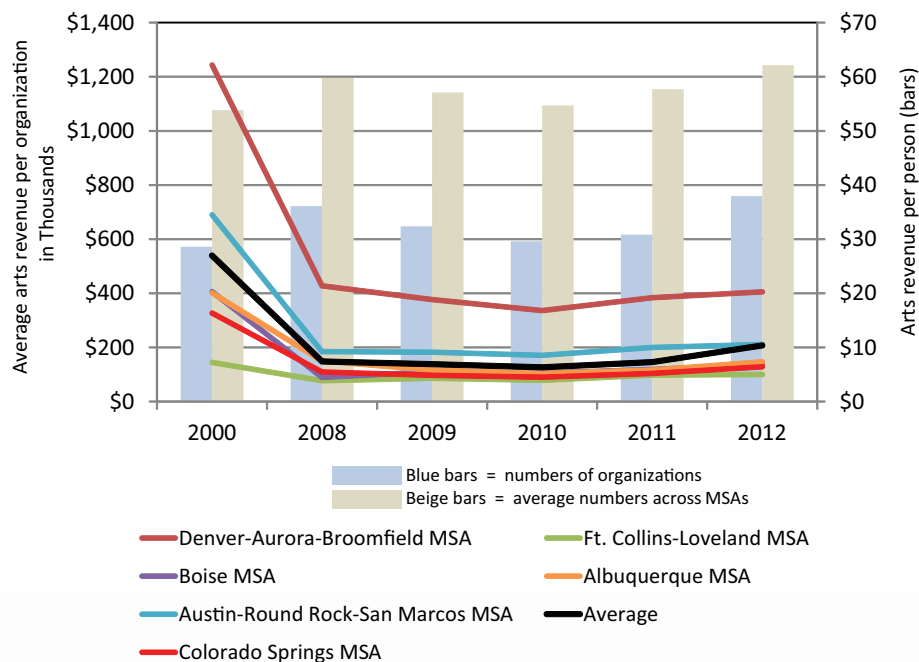
Growth rates show increasing or decreasing demand for the arts, and reflect organizational sustainability.

#### How are we doing?

The community's fluctuations in number of organizations generally followed the average of comparison cities, with slightly less volatility.

Source for both charts: National Center on Charitable Statistics

## Average Arts Revenue Per Organization and Per Capita



Source: National Center on Charitable Statistics

**This chart** shows arts funding received by arts-related organizations in the community (shown as lines) and average funding per person (shown as bars), as well as how these numbers have fluctuated over the past decade.

Blue bars show data for the Colorado Springs MSA and beige bars indicate MSA averages.

A notable decrease can be seen across all areas measured in 2008.

### Why is this important?

These figures reflect the financial resources arts organizations have access to, per-person investment in the arts, and stability in arts funding over time. This data directly corresponds to the increasing number of arts organizations shown on page 16.

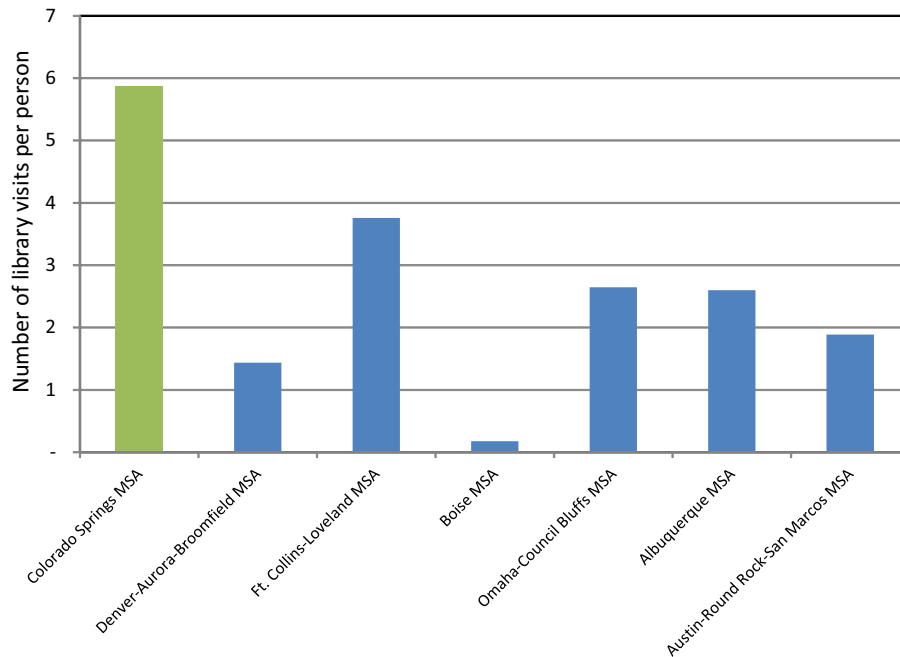
### How are we doing?

In spite of inflation, revenue per organization has fallen dramatically. Overall combined revenue hasn't increased significantly, but each organization's share of that revenue has declined as the number of organizations has increased dramatically. The fact that overall combined revenue hasn't increased much is illustrated in the bars, as well as in preceding charts. The Colorado Springs MSA lags behind comparison MSAs in terms of arts organization revenue per resident.

Photograph by Nathan Willers



## Number of Library Visits per Person



Source: Library Research Service, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, New Mexico State Library, and Official Nebraska Government, Boise Public Library

**This chart** shows the number of library visits per person in 2012. Number of visits has remained steady for a number of years, so only one year is shown for readability. Online access to library services and references is not tracked and therefore not included in the data shown.

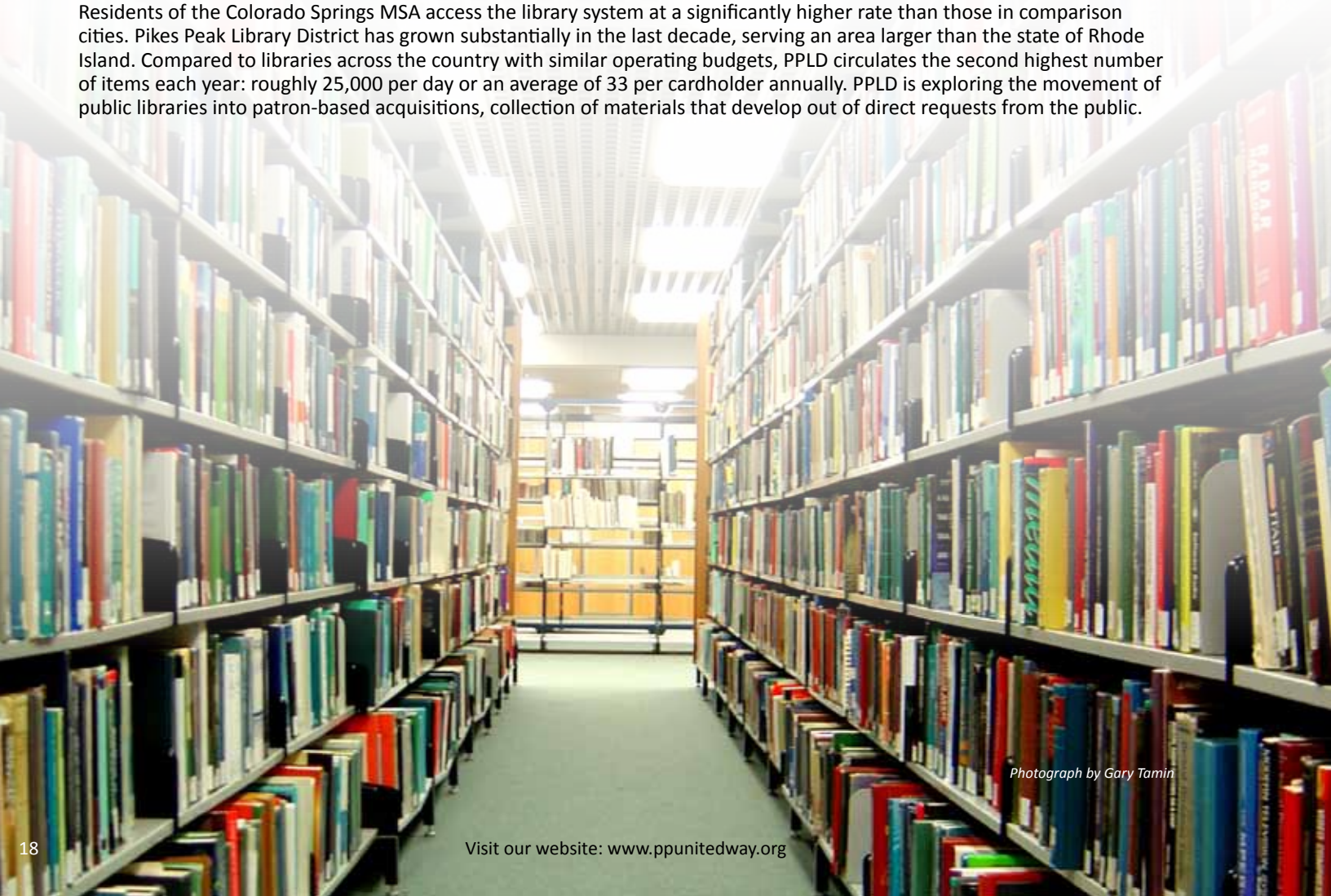
### Why is this important?

More than just books and computer banks, libraries are places where individuals, groups and organizations gather to explore, interact and imagine. Libraries add value to our communities and serve as cultural centers that provide access to diverse viewpoints. From architecturally significant public facilities, special/local collections and civic engagement, to early literacy, programming and intellectual freedom, libraries are major players in creating environmentally friendly and

engaged places to live.

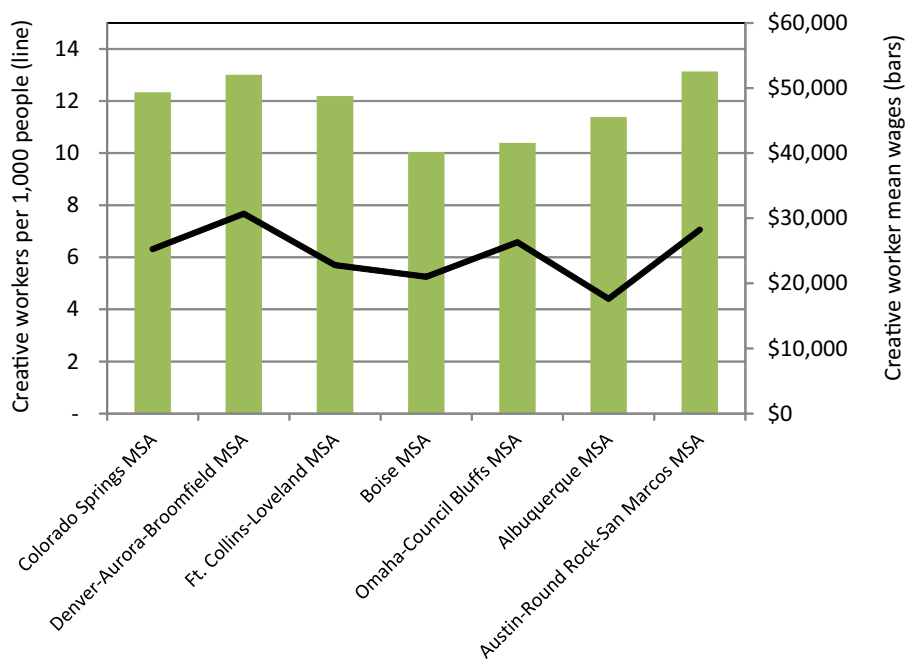
### How are we doing?

Residents of the Colorado Springs MSA access the library system at a significantly higher rate than those in comparison cities. Pikes Peak Library District has grown substantially in the last decade, serving an area larger than the state of Rhode Island. Compared to libraries across the country with similar operating budgets, PPLD circulates the second highest number of items each year: roughly 25,000 per day or an average of 33 per cardholder annually. PPLD is exploring the movement of public libraries into patron-based acquisitions, collection of materials that develop out of direct requests from the public.



Photograph by Gary Tamin

## Employees in the Arts Industry



**This chart** shows the number of creative workers per 1,000 population (bars), and the mean wages earned by these workers in 2012 (line).

### Why is this important?

Employment in creative industries, which includes artists, musicians, graphic designers, architects and professional writers, gives an indication of the health of the creative economy. Creative jobs reflect demand for artistic services in the community, and wages reflect the value the community places on these services.

### How are we doing?

Job volume and wages for creative workers in the Colorado Springs MSA are roughly on par with those in comparison cities.

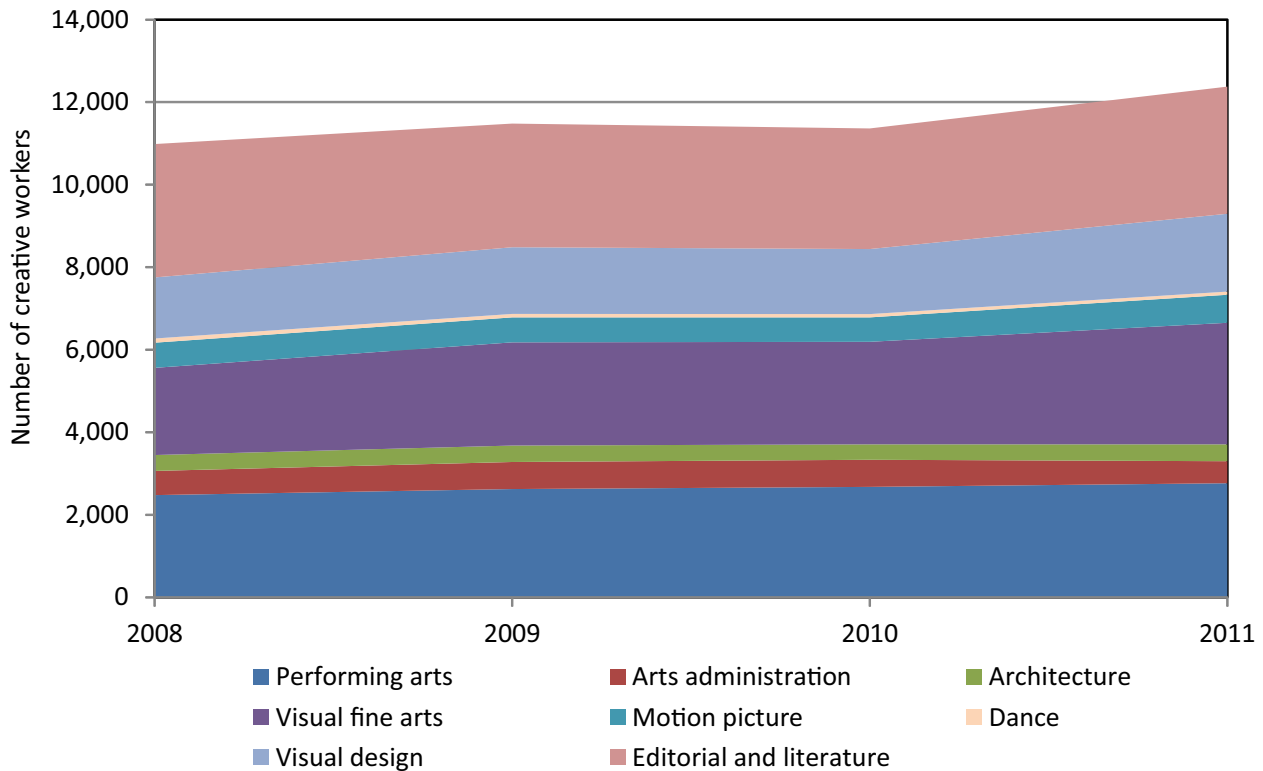
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Photograph courtesy of The Downtown Partnership



## Creative Employees by Category



Source: Americans for the Arts

**This chart** shows the number of creative workers employed in various creative jobs in the Pikes Peak region. The top categories are performing arts, visual fine arts and editorial services.

### Why is this important?

Arts businesses and the creative people they employ stimulate innovation in today's marketplace.

### How are we doing?

Creative employment in the Colorado Springs MSA per 1,000 workers is 12.86.

Notable fields include:

- Public address system and other announcers
- Public relations specialists
- Technical writers
- Interpreters and translators
- Audio and video equipment technicians
- Media and communication equipment workers

Musicians and singers make the highest hourly average wage at \$37.68, and media and communications equipment workers are right behind at \$37.59.



Photograph by Steller Propeller Studio



# Built Environment

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City of Colorado Springs

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MSA Consulting

**RAY WINN**  
City of Manitou Springs Planning

*Photograph by Neil Podoll*

Simply put, the built environment is a constructed habitat for human use and the system needed to support it. However, the built environment is not simple. It is a complex network of physical, cultural, social and economic influences that interact with each other to create an ever-evolving environment in which people live, work and play.

The Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area is a very large land area with diverse ecosystems, ranging from rugged wilderness and mountain environs to foothills, valleys and expansive prairies. That expansive natural environment leads to diversity in communities and development patterns that respond to the needs of the residents in each particular area. Our land use has evolved as is typical in many Western communities: low density, with a propensity for single-family homes, plenty of open space, and automobile orientation.

Over the past several decades, special districts of various types have proliferated throughout much of the developing parts of the Colorado Springs MSA. Within El Paso County, there are now more than 150 special purpose districts, which are organized to provide some combination of capital financing for public improvements and/or ongoing operations and maintenance. Colorado Springs alone has about 80 districts of various types. Most districts have the authority to impose property tax. Most of these metropolitan districts are development-specific and many of their boards are controlled by developers. Districts provide developers with the opportunity to shift a share of their required or desired infrastructure costs to future benefiting property owners, thereby potentially reducing the need to initially build

all of these costs into the sale price of their developed properties. Cities and counties can benefit from districts as a means of facilitating the philosophy of “development paying for itself.” As city and county general fund resources diminish, districts can be used to shift what may have previously been general capital or maintenance costs to specific developments, and may allow developers to provide a higher affordable standard of public services. Districts can provide a sustainable and reliable mechanism for ongoing maintenance and operations.

Concerns with special districts include their proliferation, which can lead to a whole host of issues, including less clarity as to who is responsible for what costs and services, differential taxation, and other equity or representational concerns. Districts can have low ‘tax efficiency’ in the form of high financing costs. Owners who may be heavily taxed by districts, and who may receive substantial services from them, may be less inclined to support community-wide tax or fee initiatives.

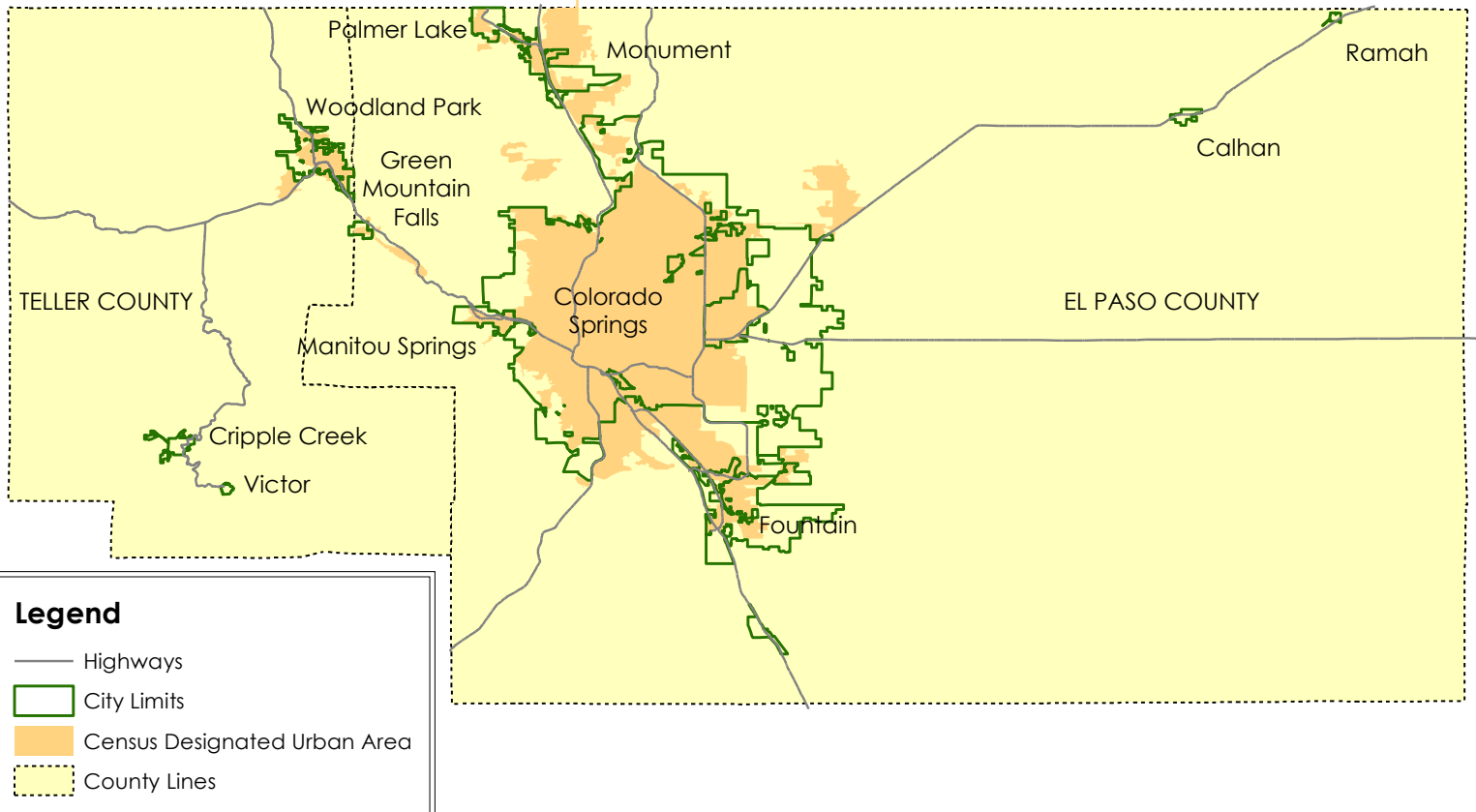


Image courtesy of Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

# Colorado Springs Land Use

City of Colorado Springs	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Residential	29,523	30,278	30,739	31,077	31,284	31,414	31,532	31,729
Commercial/Office/Industrial	8,929	9,115	9,245	9,464	9,587	9,656	9,581	9,632
Parks/Trails/Open Space	10,804	10,843	10,922	10,956	10,978	10,978	10,956	11,003
Institution	9,791	10,064	10,042	11,744	11,832	11,836	11,882	11,849
Other	18,282	19,009	19,453	19,681	20,230	20,305	20,338	20,337
Vacant	46,067	44,751	43,802	41,478	40,701	40,423	40,419	40,155
<b>TOTAL LAND USE</b>	<b>123,396</b>	<b>124,060</b>	<b>124,203</b>	<b>124,385</b>	<b>124,612</b>	<b>124,612</b>	<b>124,608</b>	<b>124,705</b>

Source: El Paso County Assessor's Office, Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation and Cultural Services Department

The first table shows land use in Colorado Springs divided into six categories. Colorado Springs is the largest city in El Paso and Teller Counties. After vacant land, the largest category of land use is residential, to accommodate the region's population base.

The fact that Colorado Springs has a large area devoted to open space and parks illustrates a focus on the outdoors.



For more information on open space, parks and trail miles, see pages 93, 94 and 96.

## El Paso County Land Use

El Paso County	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Residential	185,524	190,796	197,331	201,108	201,344	201,156	202,179	205,947
Commercial/Office/Industrial	16,972	17,525	17,508	17,745	17,642	17,430	17,125	17,223
Parks/Trails/Open Space	44,151	44,190	44,269	44,302	44,325	44,325	44,303	44,350
Institution	51,604	51,794	52,608	54,588	55,860	57,072	60,249	63,702
Agriculture	593,453	585,447	580,086	574,340	570,875	571,958	571,462	563,783
Forest	96,855	96,855	96,855	96,855	96,855	96,855	96,855	96,855
Military	104,668	104,668	107,789	107,789	107,789	107,789	107,789	107,789
Other	44,296	45,152	42,731	43,085	44,138	43,922	43,966	43,946
Vacant	80,553	81,675	78,994	78,017	78,658	73,652	70,844	70,558
State	163,043	163,018	163,000	163,292	163,635	166,961	166,348	166,967
<b>TOTAL LAND USE</b>	<b>1,381,119</b>	<b>1,381,120</b>	<b>1,381,171</b>	<b>1,381,121</b>	<b>1,381,121</b>	<b>1,381,120</b>	<b>1,381,120</b>	<b>1,381,120</b>

Source: El Paso County Assessor's Office

The second table shows the total acreage in land use categories for all of El Paso County. Over most of the last decade, the chart shows a trend of increased developed land, the majority being residential, and a corresponding decrease in agricultural and vacant land.

### Why is this important?

Balanced land use is important for an area's long-term well-being.

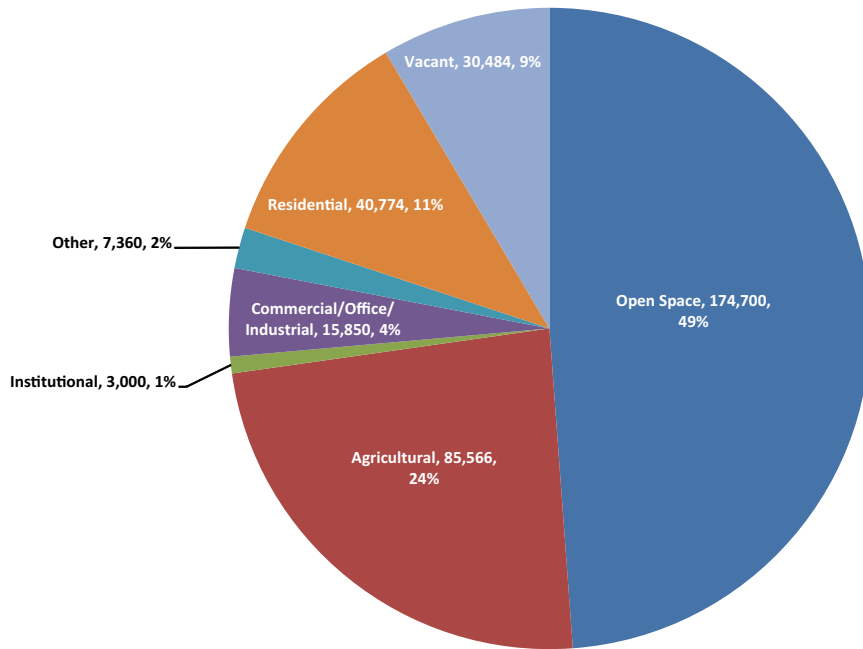
### How are we doing?

The fact that Colorado Springs and El Paso County have a large area devoted to open space and parks illustrates a focus on the outdoors and recreation. Like most Colorado Front Range counties, agricultural land is being developed. The majority of El Paso County agricultural land is used for grazing livestock or dry farming. Development is occurring outside of established city limits and planning areas, straining emergency response and utility and transportation systems. This development can negatively impact the development of cities within El Paso County. Many rural developments are facilitated by metropolitan districts, political subdivisions of the state, created by landowners to assist in property development. Districts can create competition within the utility business, but further expansion could lead to a high reliance on ground water or leased water, which may not be reliable into the future. They may shift costs to particular developments, but raise questions of taxing equity and resident representation.



For more information on land use, see page 78.

# Teller County Land Use



Source: Teller County Planning Department, 2013

The chart shows Teller County land use in 2013 divided into seven categories: open space, agricultural, residential, vacant, commercial/office/industrial, institutional and other uses.

For all lands in Teller County, this table is striking in that it shows approximately 75 percent of all privately-held lands are either open space (approximately 50 percent) or agricultural (25 percent,) which could also be a preservation of open space.

Open space includes Mueller State Park, Dome Rock, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Bureau of Land Management, Pike National Forest, USA Lands, local parks, and lands owned by the State Land Board, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and other state-held lands. Agricultural includes all privately-held lands with producing

farms or ranches and assessed as “agricultural.” Institutional includes hospitals, jails, schools, churches and government services (police, etc.) Commercial includes office and retail space, camps, conference centers, retreats and resorts. Industrial includes producing mines and other mineral, gravel or resource extraction. Residential includes single family and multi-family units. Other uses include roads and bodies of water.

## Why is this important?

Land use provides insight into a community’s population density and lifestyle preferences. Typically, the less dense, the more inefficiently resources like roads, utilities and emergency services are used.

## How are we doing?

Teller County is characterized by very low densities (approximately 0.06 persons/acre.) With roughly half of its land acreage in public holdings, it contains an abundance of open space that will remain so in perpetuity. One can find higher densities in the three incorporated municipalities of Cripple Creek (approximately 1.7 people/acre), Victor (approximately 2.3 people/acre), and Woodland Park (approximately 1.8 people/acre), but these areas are still not as dense as one finds in Colorado Springs or other Front Range municipalities. Residents of Teller County choose to live in larger houses, on larger lots, often requiring significant commutes, because they prefer the privacy, space and beauty afforded by a mountainous, agricultural environment. This rural character in the unincorporated areas is what appeals to those who choose to live here, whether or not they have working farms or ranches.

Existing community plans encourage development in established cities or unincorporated small communities such as Florissant and Divide. Numerous subdivisions in Teller County have been platted but are nowhere near capacity. As a result, no new subdivisions or lots have been platted since 2004.

Except within the incorporated areas, the county relies heavily on active homeowner associations that work to improve services such as recreational uses and transportation networks within their specific areas of jurisdiction.



# Comprehensive Plans

City/Town	Comprehensive Plan or Master Plan Date
City of Colorado Springs	City of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Plan, approved 2001
City of Fountain	The City of Fountain Comprehensive Development Plan, adopted 2005
City of Manitou Springs	Manitou Springs Forward: A Vision and Planning Guide, adopted 2012
Town of Monument	Comprehensive Plan, updated 2003
Town of Palmer Lake	Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Palmer Lake, updated 2003
Town of Calhan	The Town of Calhan Comprehensive Plan, adopted 2002
Town of Green Mountain Falls	Town of Green Mountain Falls Comprehensive Plan, adopted 2007
City of Woodland Park	Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan, adopted 2010
City of Cripple Creek	Master Plan, 2009
City of Victor	Comprehensive Plan, 1992
County	
El Paso	El Paso County Policy Plan, 1998 (this is the overall plan) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ute Pass Comprehensive Plan, 1982</li> <li>• South Central Comprehensive Plan, 1988</li> <li>• Black Forest Preservation Plan, 1987</li> <li>• Southwestern Comprehensive Plan, 1987</li> <li>• Tri-Lakes Comprehensive Plan, 2000</li> <li>• Falcon-Peyton Small Area Master Plan, 2008</li> <li>• Highway 94 Comprehensive Plan, 2003</li> <li>• Ellicott Valley Comprehensive Plan, 1989</li> </ul>
Teller	Teller County Growth Management Plan, 1990 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divide Regional Plan, 2006</li> <li>• Florissant Regional Plan, 1998</li> <li>• 4-Mile Regional Action Plan, 1998</li> <li>• Southeast Teller County Regional Plan, 2004</li> <li>• Woodland Park Master Plan, 1997</li> </ul>

Source: Municipality Websites and Officials

**This table** shows the most recently approved comprehensive plan for each city and county in the Colorado Springs MSA.

### Why is this important?

A comprehensive plan is a local government's document that guides development and growth in an area. Comprehensive plans are not land use regulations, rather guides which serve everyday land-use decisions. Maintaining a long-term vision for the MSA is important to represent the community's quality of life values and to inform day-to-day land-use and infrastructure decisions. Establishing individual community visions that are coordinated with the surrounding communities and the larger MSA can lead to better integration of regional capital improvements and more informed land-use decision-making tools for all area cities and counties.

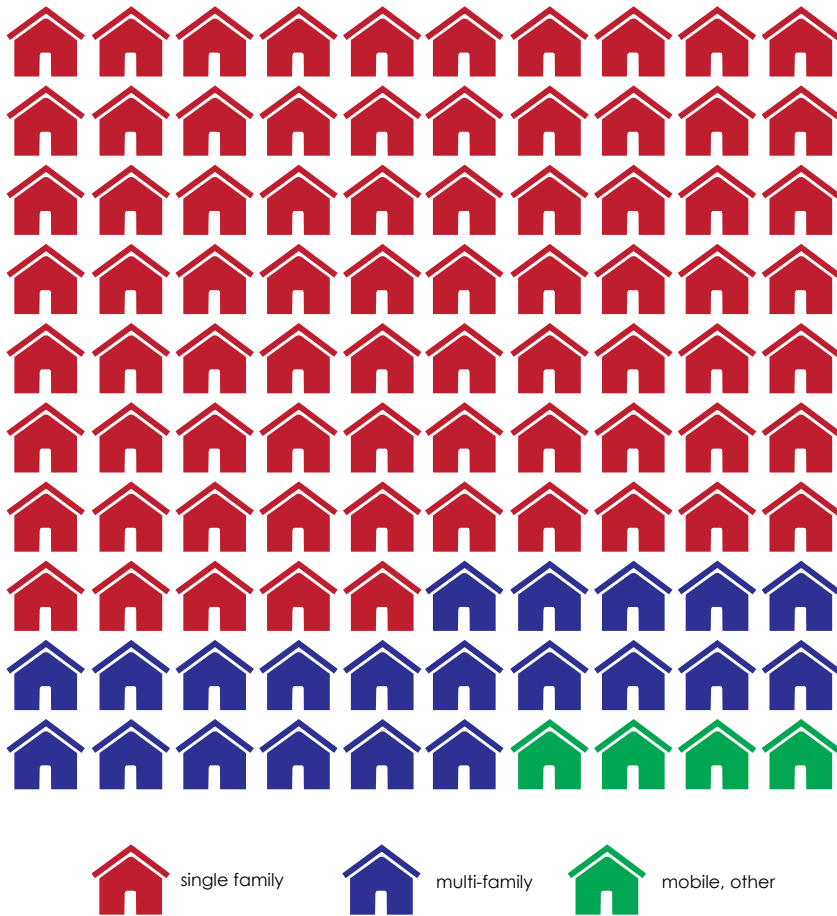
### How are we doing?

Planning standards indicate that comprehensive plans should be updated every 10 years. Many of the comprehensive plans need to be updated.



Photograph by Jeffrey M. Foster and courtesy of UCSS

# Housing Variety



 single family
  multi-family
  mobile, other

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Surveys

**The first graphic** shows the concentration of housing by types in the Colorado Springs MSA: red indicates single family units (attached and detached); blue indicates multi-family units, including apartment buildings, and green indicates other types of housing, including mobile homes, boats, etc. This data shows a vast preference for single family residences over multi-family housing, with a little more than 1 in 5 occupied units being multi-family.

**Why is this important?**  
Because single family homes have fewer dwelling units per acre, this impacts regional residential density.

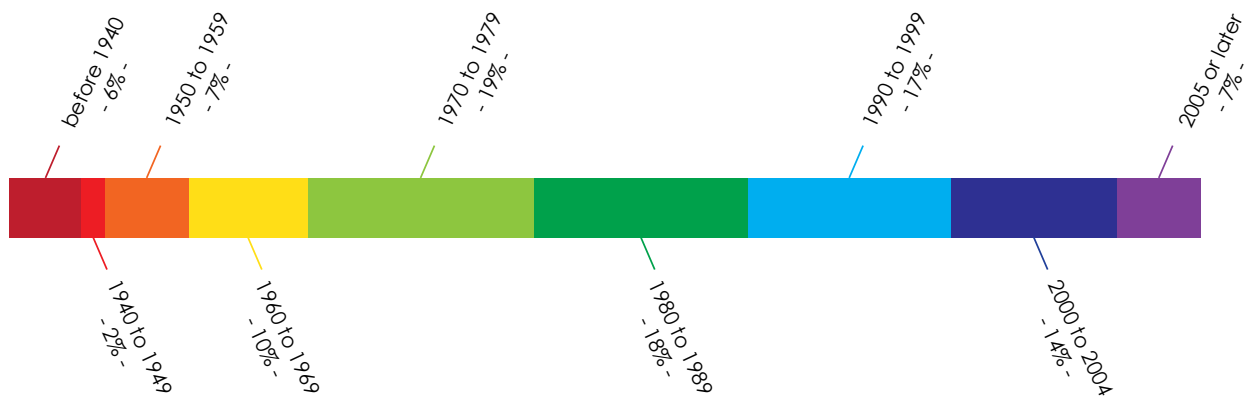
**How are we doing?**  
This chart shows that most of the region's occupied housing units are single family homes.

**The second graphic** shows when area housing was built, and can be read like a timeline, from left to right. The entire bar is equal to 100 percent of the region's housing units. Each color block shows the percentage of total residential units built within that time period. 94 percent of area housing stock was built after 1940, with 3 out of 4 residential structures built after 1970. Compared to many urban areas, the age of our regional housing stock is relatively new.

## Why is this important?

The health of neighborhoods can often be derived based upon their age and character. Most neighborhoods reflect the development trends of the decade in which they were built. The age of our housing stock in the Colorado Springs MSA speaks to the type of residential life in a suburban setting, where automobiles are required to get to and from work, school, and other activities. Many of our housing units are not built around walkable, dense, mixed-use centers. This is typical in the West.

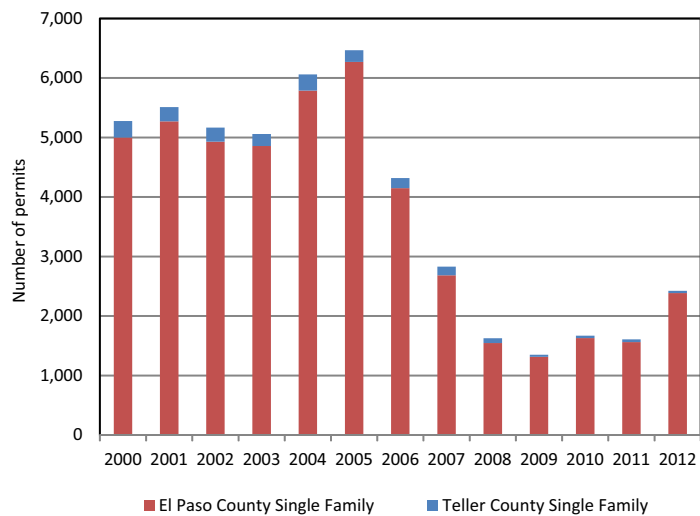
## Age of Housing Stock



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Surveys

# Building Permits

## Single-Family Permits



**The first chart** is a bar graph showing the number of single-family residential building permits issued in the Colorado Springs MSA between 2000 and 2012.

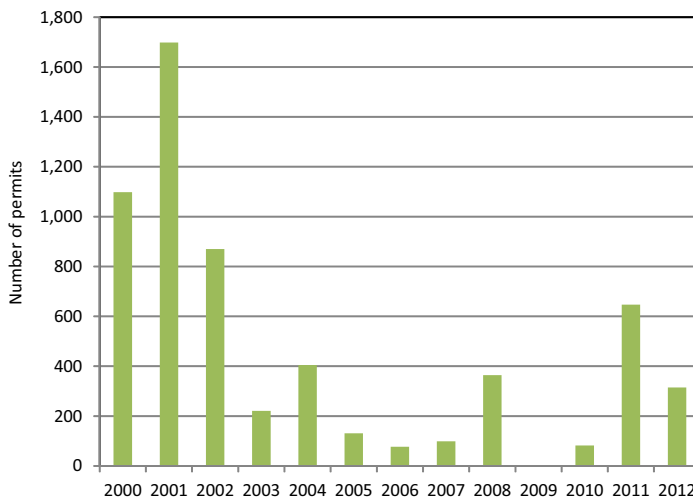
### Why is this important?

After 2005, the region saw a decline in the number of residential building permit issues. In 2009, the region issued only 1,349 single-family residential building permits, with 34 of those issued in Teller County. Since 2009, the number of single-family residential building permits has generally increased.

### How are we doing?

The Colorado Springs MSA is slowly recovering from the drop in the number of permits issued regionally and permitted 2,424 new single-family residences in 2012.

## Multi-Family Permits



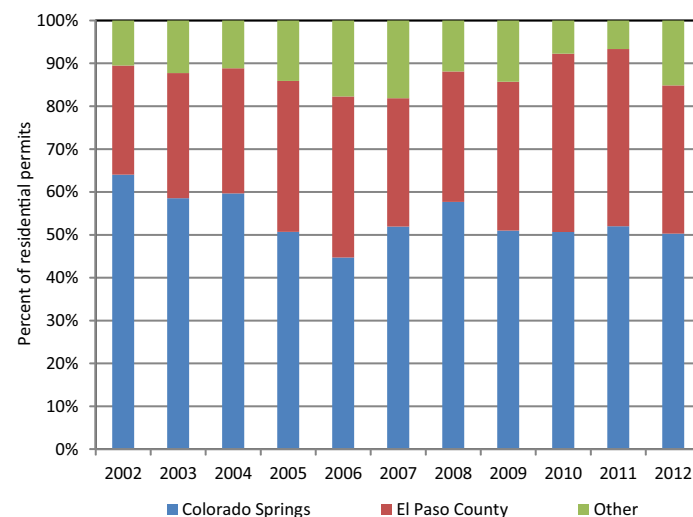
**The second chart** shows the number of multi-family residential permits by the number of units issued regionally between 2000 and 2012.

### Why is this important?

This chart illustrates that there was more regional activity in permitting multi-family units at the beginning of the 21st century. However, after 2002, activity has been low. In 2012, there were only 315 multi-family residential units issued permits. Multi-family housing is a way to accommodate more people/households per acre. Areas with more multi-family housing have higher residential density and use fewer resources than areas that are less dense.

**The third chart** shows the residential building permits issued by jurisdiction, including El Paso County, the City of Colorado Springs, and other jurisdictions. Columns are based on the percentage of permits issued by each jurisdiction. This chart does not include data from Teller County.

## Residential Building Permits by Area



### Why is this important?

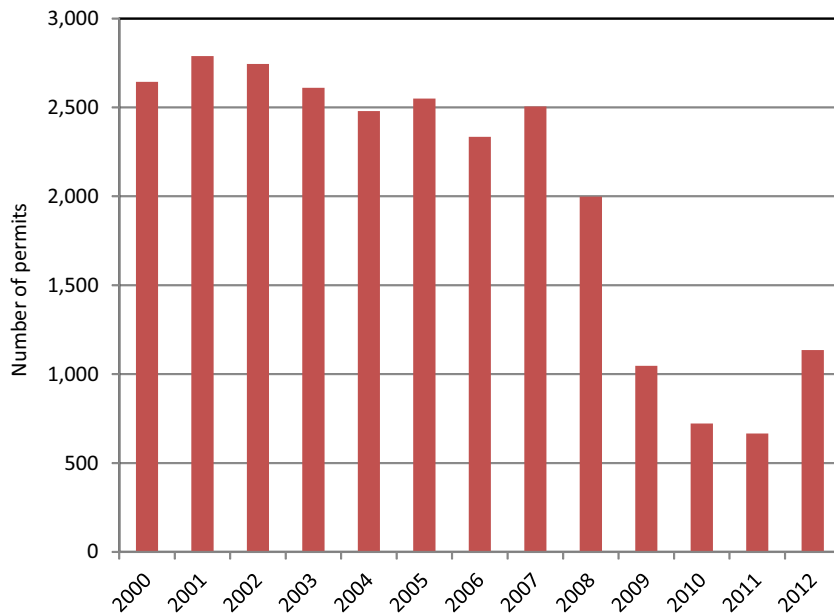
This chart shows the shift in the location of residential building between 2000 and 2012. In 2002, almost 65 percent of newly-permitted residential buildings were inside the City of Colorado Springs. A decade later, only 50 percent of residential permitting in all of El Paso County occurred in the City of Colorado Springs.

The shift from urban residential permitting to more rural residential permitting indicates where growth is heading in the region. In the Colorado Springs MSA, residential growth is headed outward into El Paso County, sprawling away from the urban core.

**How are we doing?** Knowing that more residential building permits are being issued to areas outside the urban core, it is imperative that we dedicate resources to ensure a safe and efficient transportation system to serve these outlying areas.

Source for all charts: Pikes Peak Regional Building Department and Teller County Building Department, 2013

## El Paso County Non-Residential Permits



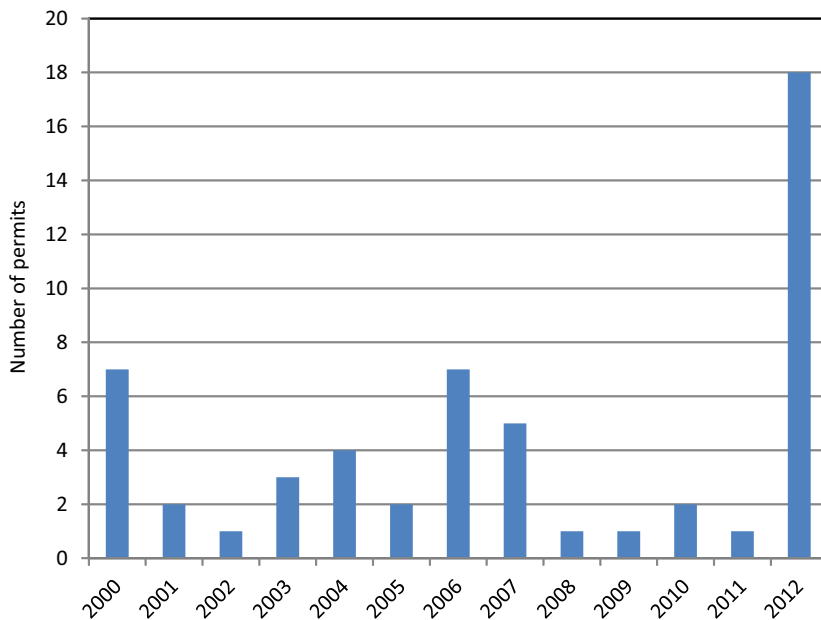
Source: Pikes Peak Regional Building Department, 2013

**These two charts** show the number of non-residential building permits issued by El Paso and Teller Counties between 2000 and 2012 for office, retail and industrial space.

The El Paso County chart shows a decline in the number of non-residential permits issued after 2008, but there has been a recent upturn of 170 percent in the number of permits issued from 2011 to 2012. However, the region issued fewer than half the number of permits in 2012 compared to 2000.

The Teller County chart shows a low number of non-residential building permits with a recent spike. In 2012, the county approved 14 new non-residential permits.

## Teller County Non-Residential Permits



Source: Teller County Planning Department, 2013

### Why is this important?

The number of non-residential building permits is one indicator of growth and economic activity.

### How are we doing?

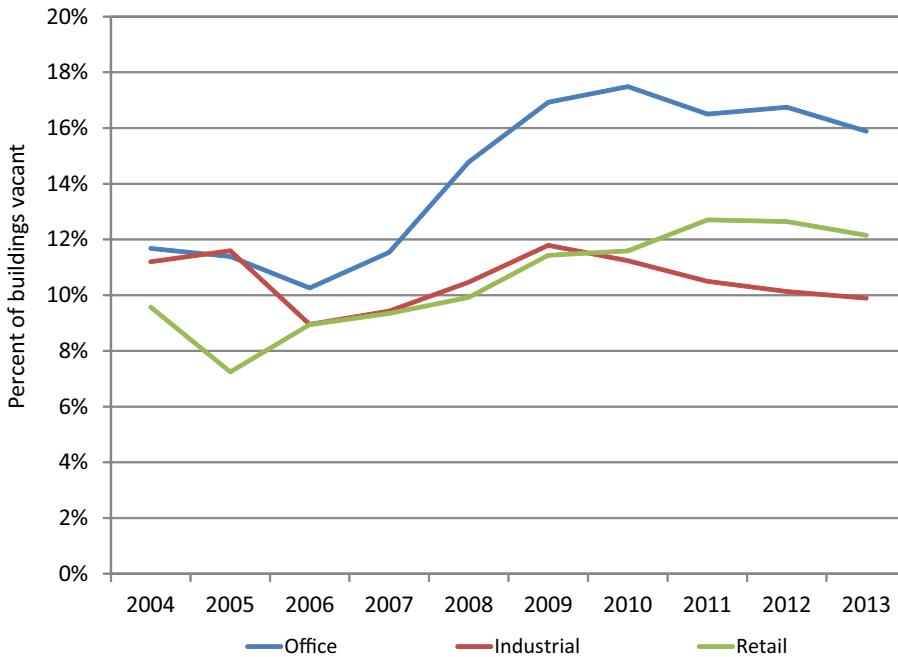
The number of permits issued in both El Paso and Teller counties is rising, pointing to increased economic activity.



**For more information** on building permits, see page 51.



# Commercial Vacancy Rates



Source: Sierra Commercial Real Estate

**This chart** shows the average vacancy rate for each broad category of commercial real estate (office, retail and industrial) over time.

**Why is this important?**

Changes in vacancy rates are indicative of employment trends. Rising vacancy rates indicate a declining demand for commercial real estate, translating to less jobs. Declining vacancy rates indicate companies are expanding and need more space to house an increased number of employees. In a contracting economy, vacancy rates predict financial turmoil. In a growing economy, they identify employment sectors that are successful and allow for capital to identify and fulfill future needs.

**How are we doing?**

When vacancy rates are low, demand is created for new construction. The chart shows that vacancy rates have increased since 2006.



Photograph by Tim Pleasant

# Stormwater Needs

Entity	Capital Projects	Annual Maintenance (to include Sweeping and Drainage)	Annual Water Quality Permit	Annual Planning Studies
City of Colorado Springs	\$686,647,000	\$7,100,000	\$1,550,000	\$700,000
El Paso County	\$108,176,258	\$1,385,010	\$366,000	\$1,750,000
Town of Monument	\$6,210,000			
City of Manitou Springs	\$397,500	\$51,000	\$179,000	\$20,000
Town of Fountain	\$46,000,000			
City of Woodland Park	needs study	\$78,000	N/A	\$30,000
Colorado Springs Utilities	\$31,500,000	\$200,000	N/A	N/A
Fort Carson	funded	not tracked separately	not tracked separately	internally performed
US Air Force Academy	\$24,500,000	contracted	contracted	\$10,000
Cherokee Metro District	\$3,011,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>REGIONAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$907,411,758</b>	<b>\$8,814,010</b>	<b>\$2,095,000</b>	<b>\$2,510,000</b>

Source: Pikes Peak Stormwater.org

**This table** shows the estimated cost for stormwater maintenance and projects in the Colorado Springs MSA.

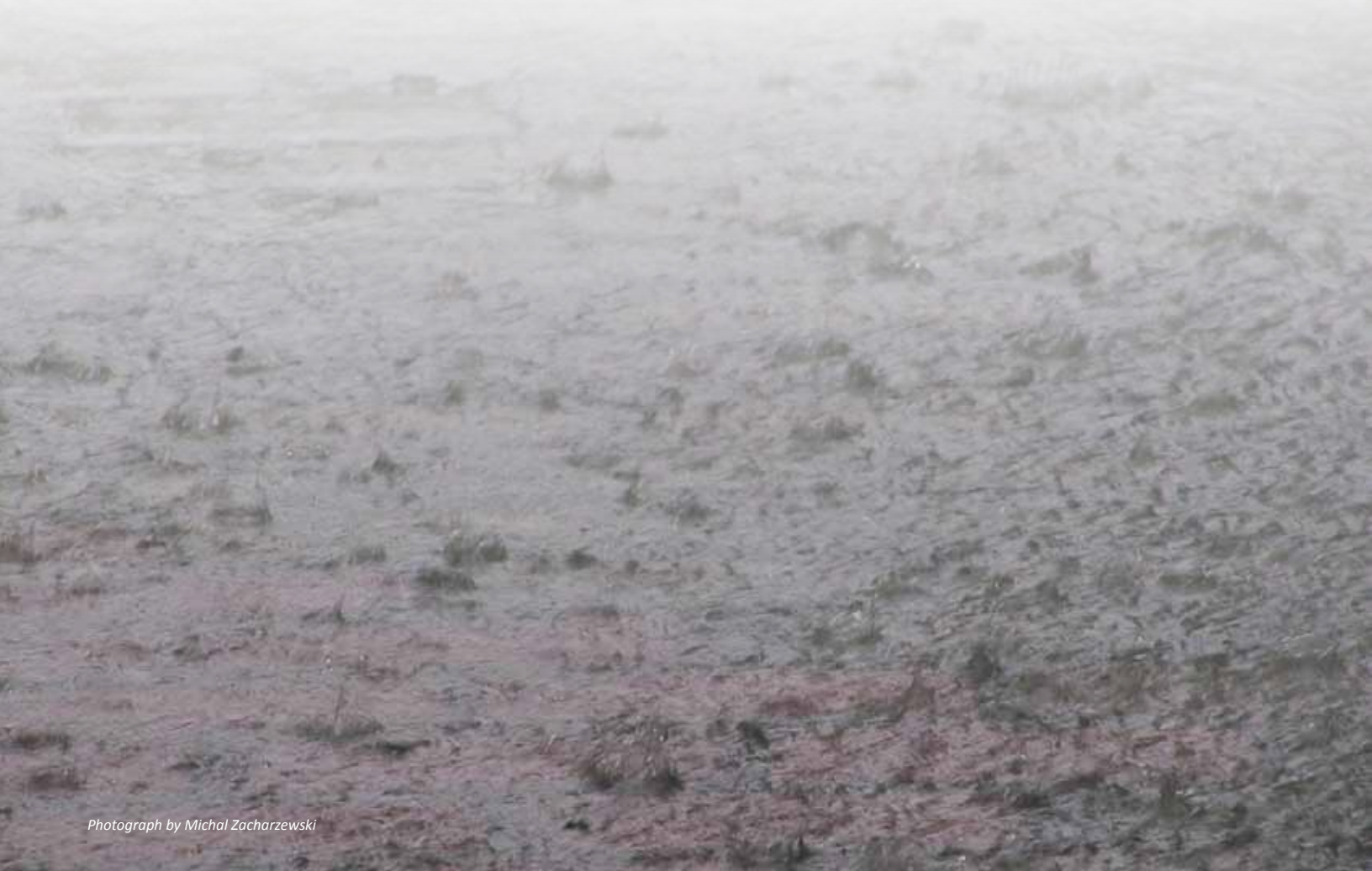
**Why is this important?**

Failure to address stormwater deficiencies can lead to flooding and adversely impact stormwater quality for area residents and downstream communities.

**How are we doing?**

Stormwater infrastructure is emerging as a significant issue for our MSA. Natural disasters and development patterns over time have created a deficiency in the existing infrastructure. Current funding is

insufficient to address identified stormwater needs and mandated environmental permitting requirements. A multi-jurisdictional discussion is underway involving the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Colorado Springs and other entities to evaluate the specific community needs and best management practice to address the problem.



Photograph by Michal Zacharzewski



# Community Engagement

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Leadership Pikes Peak

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**AMY RODDA**  
Pikes Peak Library District

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Community member

**LOU ANN DEKLEVA**  
Colorado Springs School District 11

**ROSE ESPINOLA**  
Community member

**SHIRLEY MARTINEZ**  
Colorado Springs Diversity Forum

**SUSAN PRESTI**  
Colorado Springs Utilities

**DEE VAZQUEZ SABOL**  
Pikes Peak Library District

**GWEN STEIN**  
El Paso County 4th Judicial District



Photograph courtesy of Pikes Peak United Way

How citizens build community contributes to quality of life in ways that are sometimes difficult to measure, so Community Engagement researchers have chosen indicators like voter turnout, attendance at public meetings, participation in neighborhood organizations, rates of volunteerism, local philanthropy, diversity, leadership demographics and religious affiliation. Perhaps what's telling is that Community Engagement doesn't simply measure attendance at events or entertainment venues; rather, most of these measurements demonstrate how people consciously choose to get involved.

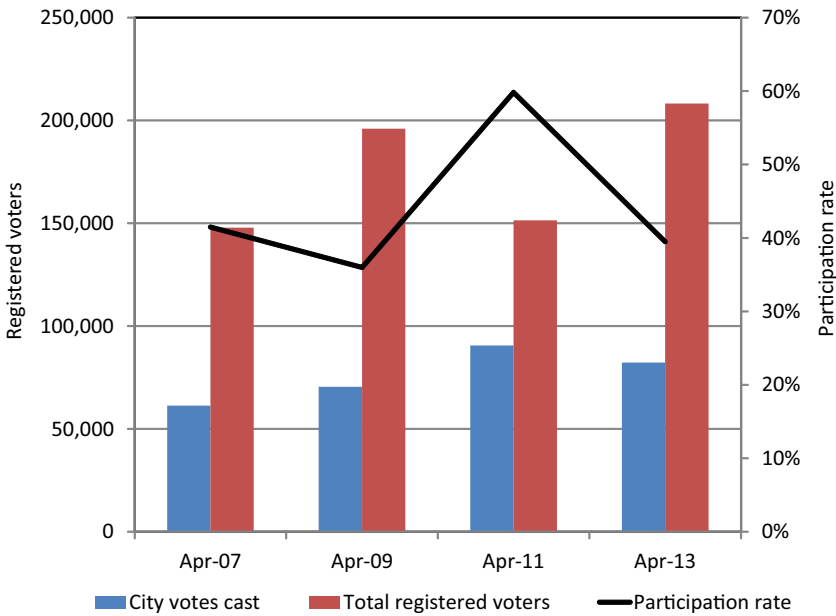
In the Colorado Springs MSA, 67.8 percent of households volunteer annually, including through board leadership, and approximately 94 percent give to charity.

Sometimes opportunities to get involved are thrust upon people during a natural disaster, and a community's response tells a story all its own. In June of 2012 and 2013, the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires made history, forcing tens of thousands to flee their neighborhoods and destroying 850 homes and businesses. Citizens rallied to help through local food, clothing and funding drives. Donations came from all 50 states. Individuals, corporations large and small, and foundations all pulled together to help those impacted by the fire.



Top photograph by Brad Armstrong and courtesy of UCCS. Bottom photograph courtesy of Pikes Peak United Way

# Voter Participation in City of Colorado Springs Elections



Source: El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs

**These charts** show the numbers of registered voters and votes cast in City of Colorado Springs and in MSA-wide elections, as well as participation rates, which are calculated by taking the number of active registered voters divided by the number of votes actually cast

### Why is this important?

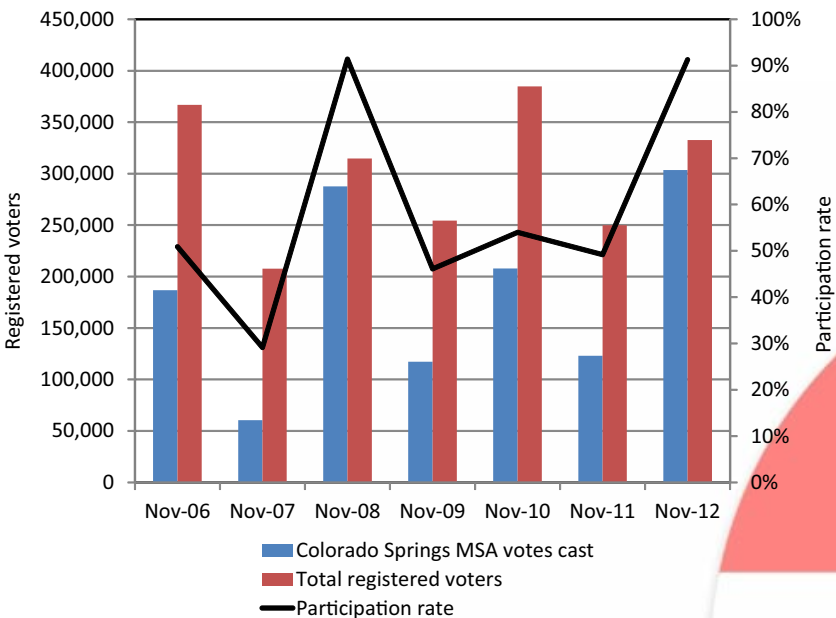
An engaged and vibrant community is characterized by a high rate of participation in the democratic process. Voting is the most fundamental way to get involved with this process and indicates the level of engagement.

### How are we doing?

Voter participation varies widely, perhaps influenced by local, state and national elections, and the presence of controversial amendments and tax initiatives. At a city level, participation peaked in 2011 when voters approved changing Colorado Springs' form of government to a mayor-council system, also referred to as "strong mayor."

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# Voter Participation in Colorado Springs MSA

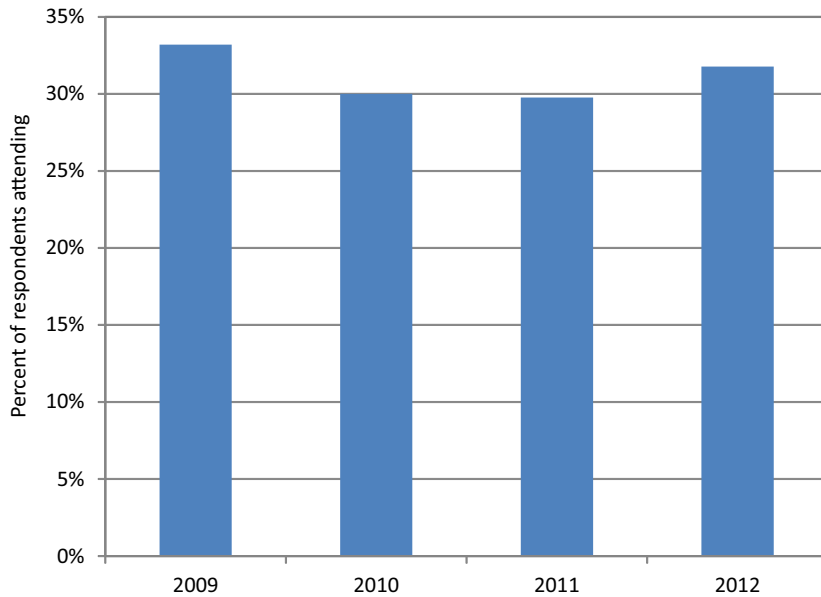


Source: El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs





# Public Meeting Attendance



Source: QLI Community Visioning Surveys

**The first chart** shows the percentage of respondents who answered “yes” to the Community and QLI Survey question, “In the last year, have you attended any public meetings in which there was discussion of community affairs?”

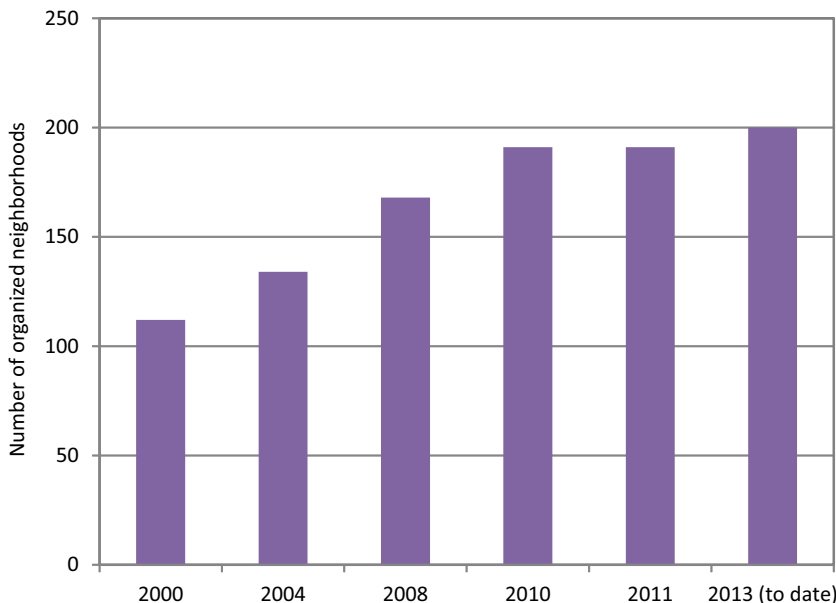
**Why is this important?**

Attendance at public meetings provides opportunities for citizens to become informed and engaged on issues important to the community. Public meetings are one way for residents to voice their opinions, offer feedback on civic issues and influence the policy-making process.

**How are we doing?**

There has been a slight increase in the last two years of reported public meeting attendance. Overall, public meeting attendance has not changed much in the last five years and has remained close to 30 percent. The Pew Research Center found that 22 percent of adults nationally have attended a civic meeting in 2012.

# Neighborhood Organizations



Source: Council of Neighbors and Organizations

**The second chart** shows the number of organized neighborhood associations. These are either legally established homeowners associations as recognized by Colorado state law, which may have been created by the original neighborhood developer, or independently-established neighborhood organizations. Both types normally have elected officers and regular meetings and activities.

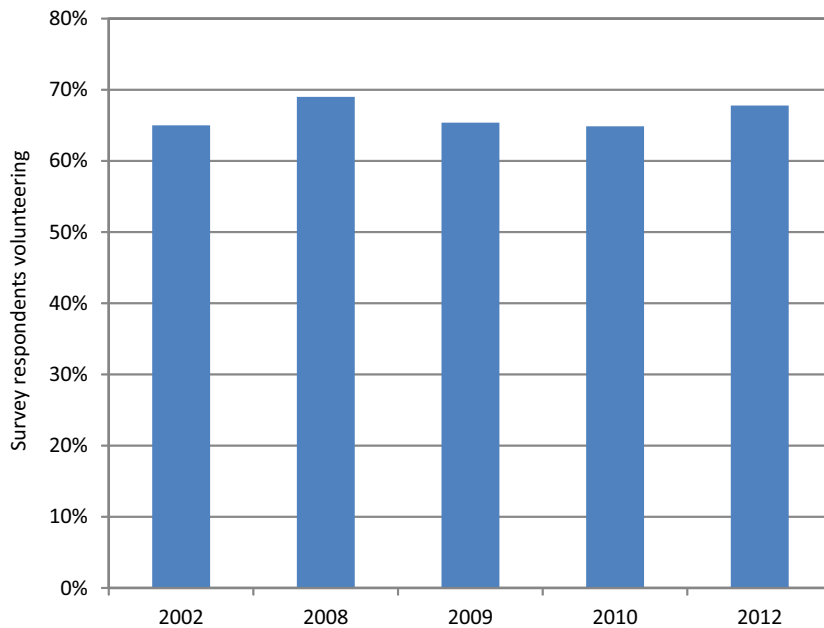
**Why is this important?**

Neighborhoods are the building blocks of a community. Organized neighborhood associations allow residents to work together to achieve recreational, safety and political goals. Organized neighborhoods provide a forum for beautification efforts and crime watches, and can act as conduits of information from local government entities.

**How are we doing?**

There has been an increase in the number of neighborhood organizations in the last five years. More than 32 organized neighborhood associations have been formed, bringing the current total to 200. The growth may be attributed to an increase in new neighborhoods and communities.

# Volunteerism



Source: QLI Community Visioning Surveys

**The first chart** shows the percentage of Community and QLI survey respondents who spent volunteer time on charitable service.

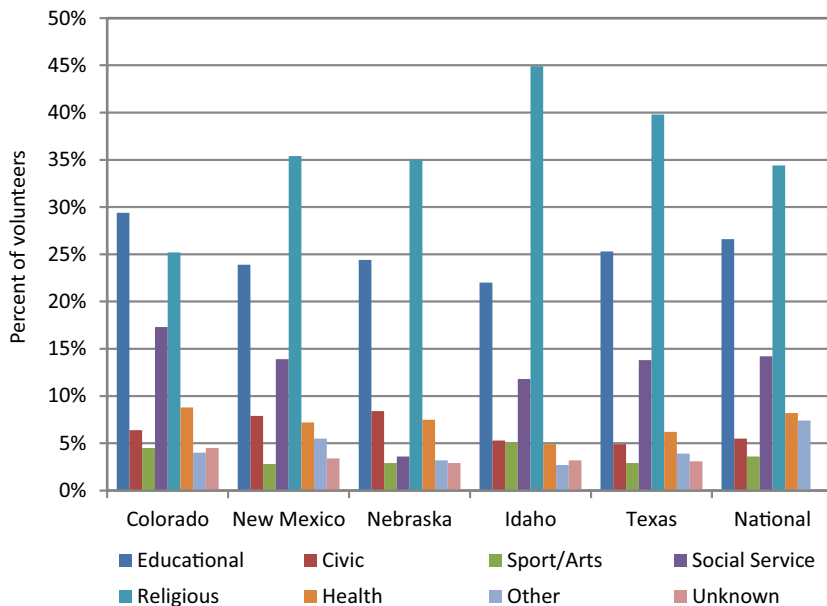
**Why is this important?**

Volunteering, by its very nature, entails social connectedness. This direct connection and contribution of personal energy is a venue for building community and strengthening social capital. According to a Saguaro Seminar report, communities with higher levels of social capital are likely to have higher educational achievement, better performing institutions, faster economic growth and less crime and violence.

**How are we doing?**

Volunteerism in the Colorado Springs MSA has remained relatively steady since 2002.

## Where People Volunteered



Source: Volunteering in America

**The second chart** shows what kind of activities volunteers spent time on in 2011.

**Why is this important?**

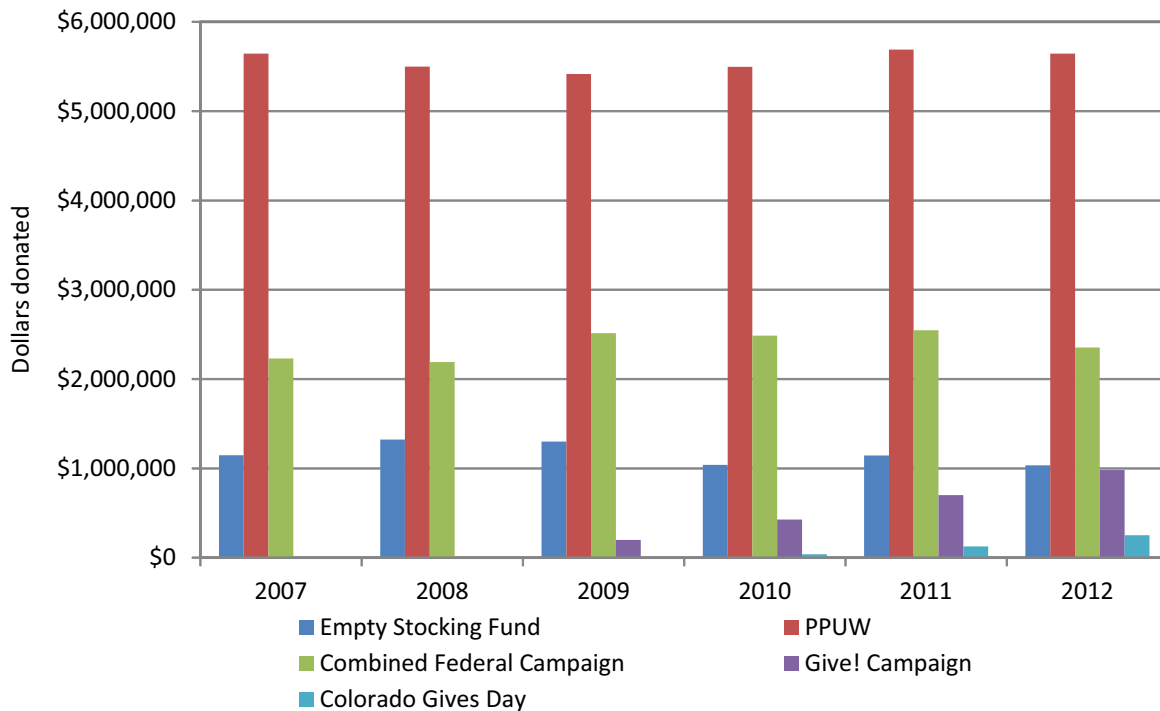
A vibrant community offers diverse opportunities to connect and contribute in the areas of residents' interests and passions.

**How are we doing?**

In Colorado, the highest volunteer participation rate is through education, followed by religious volunteer opportunities. This differs from the comparison states, in which religion is the highest and education is second.

# Community Giving

## Combined Community Contributions



Source: Combined Federal Campaign, Empty Stocking Fund, Pikes Peak United Way, Independent Give! Campaign, and Colorado Gives Day

The chart shows donations to major local fundraising campaigns

### Why is this important?

A well-supported nonprofit sector is critical for maintaining a healthy and stable region through both economic vitality and filling service gaps for underserved populations. Community donations are a helpful indicator for assessing the viability of a region's nonprofit sector and are also a measure of the extent to which residents are engaged and invested in the well-being of the community.

### How are we doing?

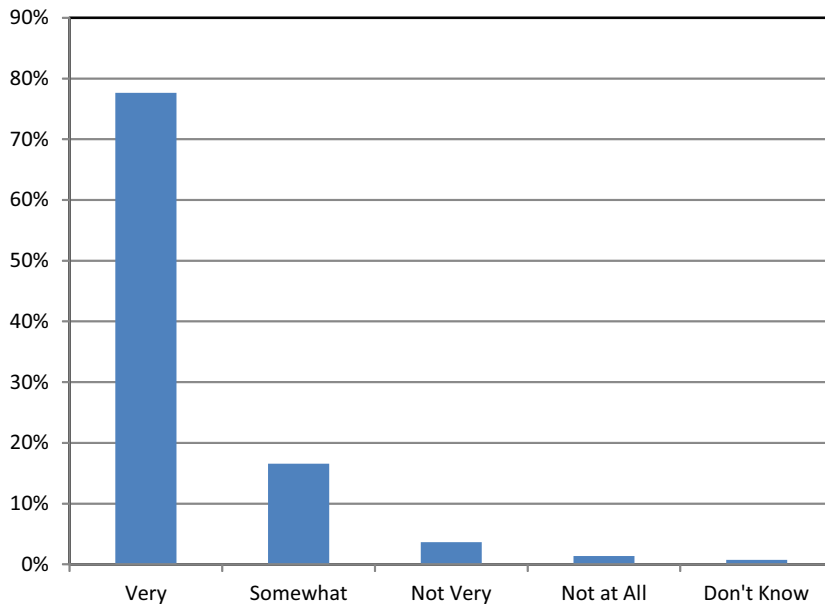
Nationally, total charitable giving by individuals increased 3.9 percent in 2011, for a total of 64 percent of households. In the Pikes Peak region, giving increased 7.6 percent during the same period. In the 2012 survey of Pikes Peak region residents, 94 percent of respondents reported that they or other members of their household donated money or property to charity in the last 12 months.

Though donations to local campaigns have remained essentially flat at approximately \$10 million, the Independent's GIVE! and Colorado Gives Day had significant increases during 2011 and 2012 (40 percent and 98 percent respectively.) Both campaigns are online-based and use email solicitation. In addition to the funds shown on this chart, the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire disaster spurred the creation of three new funds and a new nonprofit entity designated to help survivors, first responders, and community nonprofits that assisted those impacted by the fire. These funds received \$1,612,260 in contributions from the community, in addition to the large outpouring of in-kind donations to local nonprofits assisting fire victims. This philanthropic activity was above and beyond the traditional community giving campaign results.

**For more information, contact** Center for Nonprofit Excellence, Pikes Peak United Way, Pikes Peak Community Foundation, Colorado Springs Gazette, Colorado Springs Independent



# Importance of Acceptance of Differences



Source: Community and QLI Survey

**The first chart** shows responses to the Community and QLI survey question, “How important do you believe it is to have a community that is accepting of differences in race, ethnicity, religious preference and gender orientation?” In 2012, 77 percent of residents surveyed responded that community acceptance of diversity is very important. Sixteen percent considered it to be somewhat important and less than 5 percent responded that it was not very important or they didn’t know.

### Why is this important?

A diverse community not only allows for a more interesting population and enriching environment in which to live but also creates a stimulating environment that benefits communities in numerous ways. According to leading scholar Richard Florida, diversity promotes economic growth: technology, talent and tolerance brings together a “creative class” which collectively generates new ideas and technologies that stimulate growth and

economic development.

### How are we doing?

Overwhelmingly, residents of the Colorado Springs MSA say that having a community that is accepting of diversity is important. Diversity as a trait in our community is generally valued.



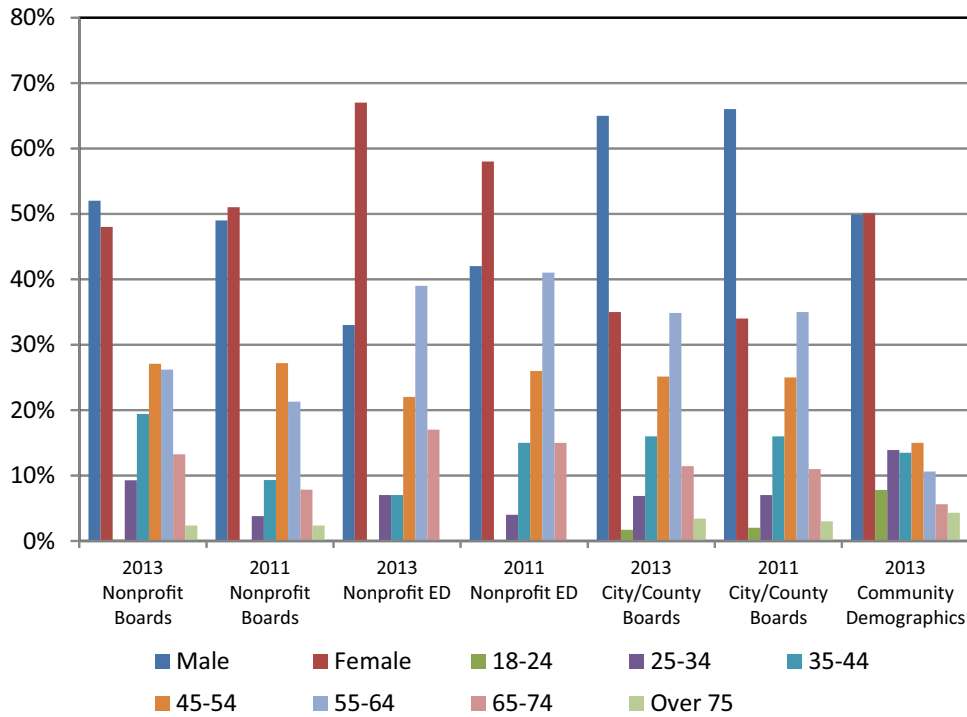
For more information on diversity of population, see page 11.



Photograph courtesy of Colorado Springs School District 11

# Leadership Demographics

## Gender and Age Distribution



Source: Pikes Peak Library District, Center for Nonprofit Excellence

**Both charts** compare nonprofit boards, nonprofit executives, and membership of city and county boards and commissions with the general population of Colorado Springs for 2011 and 2013.

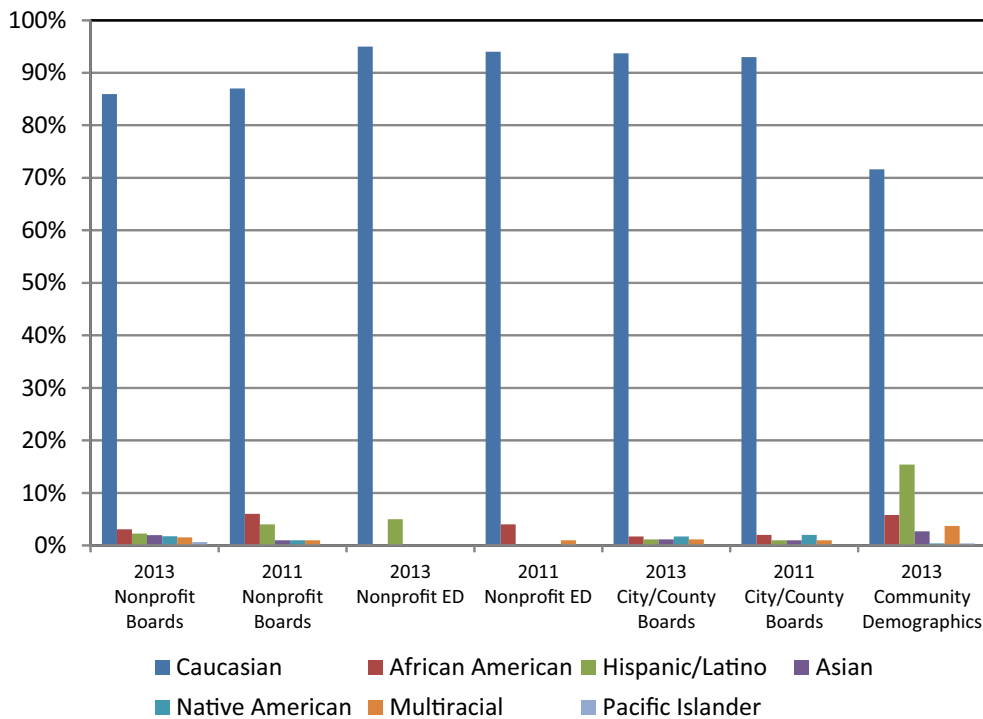
**The first chart** shows race and ethnicity of community leaders and indicates a disparity between the community and the leadership of city, county and nonprofit boards.

**The second chart** compares the community's gender and age makeup versus that of board leadership and shows a 20 percentage point or greater disparity.

**Why is this important?** Understanding the demographics of leadership in El Paso County is important both as a measure of opportunity for individual growth and access to decision-making circles.

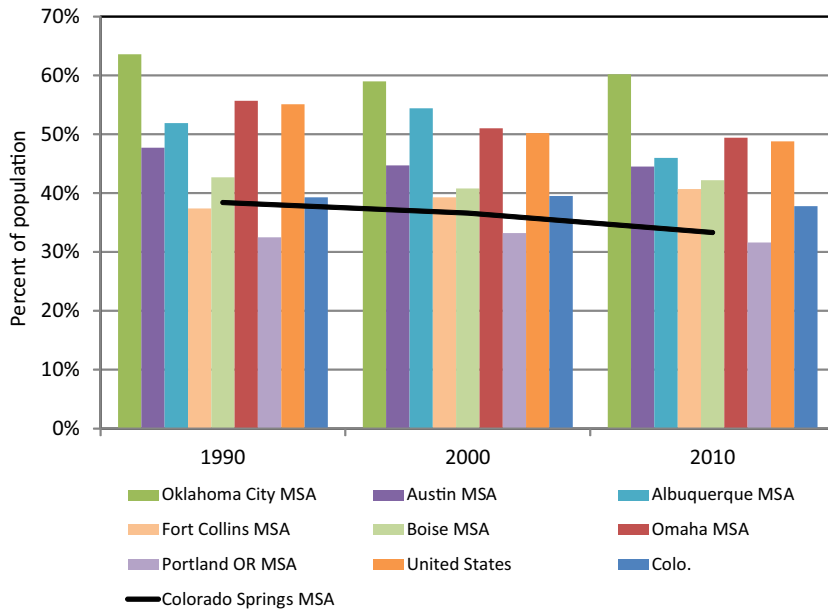
**How are we doing?** Of the entities measured, nonprofit boards most accurately replicate the gender configuration of the greater population. Unlike city and county boards, nonprofit boards do not include individuals in the 18-24 age range. City and county boards are predominantly male in composition. Recruitment practices, economic interest of applicants, and ability to meet time commitments may explain this trend.

## Ethnicity Distribution



Source: Pikes Peak Library District, Center for Nonprofit Excellence

# Participation in a Faith-Based Community



Source: Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies

**The first chart** compares the percentage of the population reporting participation in a religious body in the Colorado Springs MSA, the U.S., Colorado, and seven other metropolitan areas.

**The second chart** shows a breakdown of the region's population by affiliation. Of those who claim religious affiliation, Evangelical Protestant is predominant, followed by Roman Catholic and mainline Protestant traditions.

### Why is this important?

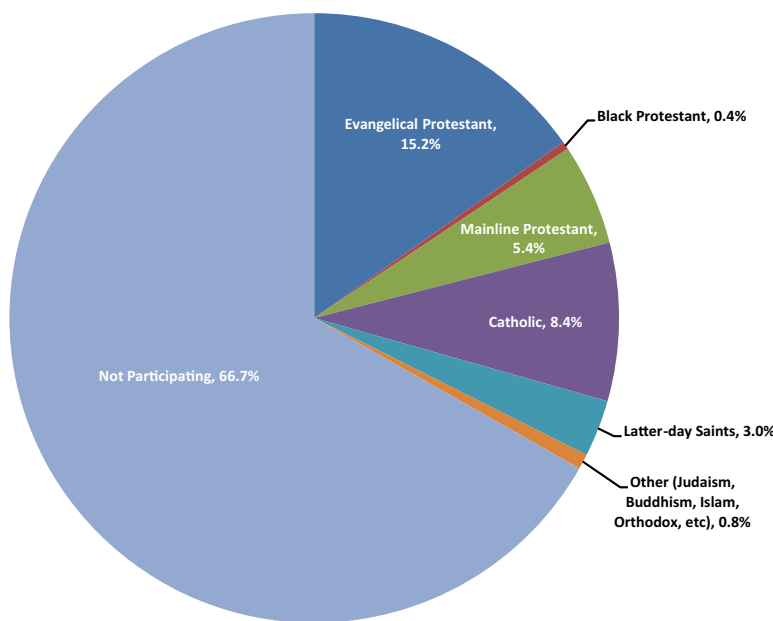
Churches, synagogues, mosques and other religious congregations provide an institutional base for civic good works and community engagement. In a 2012 Gallup poll, 25 percent of respondents said church was their primary source of information for getting involved in the community and the most trusted source of community information.

### How are we doing?

The Colorado Springs MSA has a smaller percentage of its population reporting congregational membership than either the United States or Colorado as a whole. In fact, among the selected comparison of other metropolitan areas, only Portland, Oregon, has a lower participation rate. These data are from the 2010 U.S. Religion Census: Religious Congregations & Membership Study.

In a 2012 Gallup survey, 40 percent of Americans were classified as very religious, saying religion is an important part of their daily life and that they attend religious services weekly. In the same survey, 35 percent of the Colorado Springs MSA self-identify themselves as very religious.

# Religious Affiliation



Source: Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies

# Economy

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## Researcher

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El Paso County Public Trustee

**BOB STOVALL**  
Gain-Stovall, Inc.



*Photograph by Bryan Oller*



Economic recovery in the Colorado Springs MSA during 2012 continued the slow trend that began in 2009. Jobs remain below their prior peak and the unemployment rate is comparatively high. On the positive side, the housing sector showed marked improvement. However, jobs, housing and the economy are growing very slowly and not doing well compared to comparison cities.

Over the last 10 years, Colorado Springs has experienced modest growth in gross domestic product, ranking 86th out of 366 metropolitan areas in 2011. Still, we lag the significant growth rates achieved by many of our competitor cities during the same period. Even though the value of our economic output increased and we experienced slow growth in economic output per person over the last three years, we have yet to regain the level in inflation-adjusted dollars reached in 2004.

The Colorado Springs MSA has experienced population growth of more than 66,000 since 2007, a period during which we lost 15,000 jobs. The unemployment rate more than doubled, from a seasonally adjusted 4 percent for four months in early 2007 to 10.5 percent in February 2011, before rising to 8.4 percent in June 2013. This trend will only be reversed by the creation of new jobs, particularly in primary jobs (jobs that create products and services that are shipped to other parts of the country and the world). This will, in turn, help reverse the trends in poverty levels seen in the Social Well-being section and provide an economic base from which to fund infrastructure, schools and other community needs. The housing sector is the brightest spot in the local economy. Residential building permits (single family and multifamily) have doubled over the last three years, although through June 2013, they were still only 48.7 percent of their 2001 level. New foreclosures continue to decline. New construction creates good jobs that can't be off-shored, and pay good wages to those in skilled trades.

The need to attract and retain young workers in the 25-44 age group continues to be a critical element in the development of a vibrant economy. This talent pool is critical to developing, attracting and sustaining local businesses. We have many natural assets that should be attractive to younger people: the pristine and visually appealing natural environment, amateur sports, recreation and tourism. However, without job and career opportunities, we will not attract and retain the young talent we need.

There are many factors to consider when assessing the vitality of the local economy and the attractiveness of the area to existing and new businesses. Other Quality of Life Indicators that have significant impact on the economy include levels of higher education and community diversity. Military investment has grown in recent years with the addition of the 4th Infantry Division and the Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Carson. However, plans were recently announced to reduce the 4th Infantry Division for an overall loss of 1,500 soldiers. Some troops will be reassigned to other missions at Fort Carson by 2017.

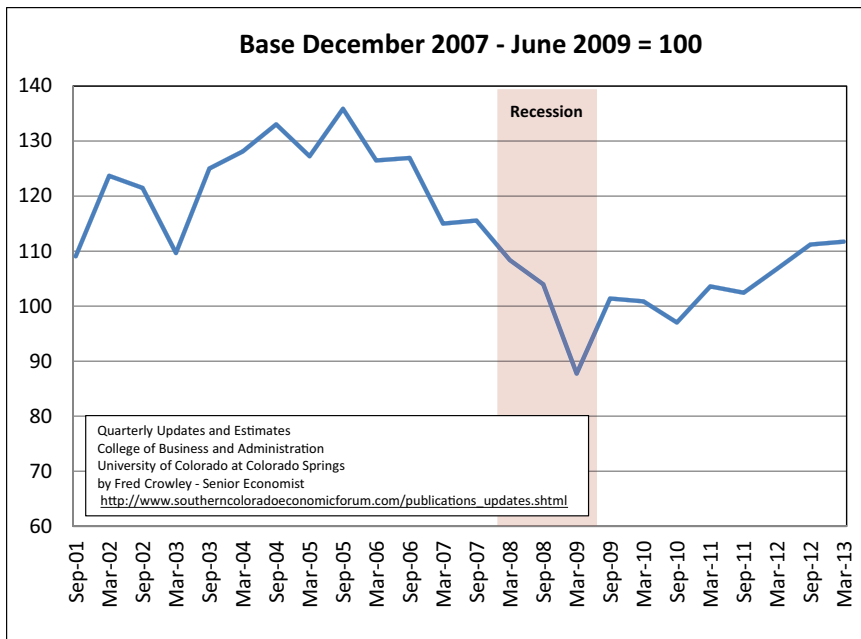
The quantitative measurements included in this section affect, and are affected by, many indicators throughout the report. For example, corporate and individual philanthropic giving, which comes from a healthy economy, provides the base for the funding in many areas, including arts and culture, recreation and social well-being. Conversely, a fit and healthy community, good air and water quality and miles of trails and open space have a positive influence on attracting businesses to El Paso and Teller counties.

Research has identified a number of key elements of a community's economic infrastructure that provide the framework for companies and whole industries to start up, relocate and expand operations in a community. Some examples are:

- Quality and availability of the work force
- Availability of development resources
- Efficiency of the local ground transportation system
- Quality of local airport and air service
- Capacity for starting new businesses
- Depth and quality of the education system
- Community involvement and leadership in economic development
- University and private sector research capability
- Availability of recreational and cultural opportunities
- Quality of the natural and manmade environment
- Fairness of local tax and regulatory structure
- Availability of affordable and reliable utility services
- Viability of downtown with a mix of entertainment, retail and housing
- Availability and affordability of housing

Over the long term, these elements provide the foundation for an economy that can remake itself as technology changes, new business models are invented and markets evolve. A truly viable economy is one that has the capacity to adapt to the changing environment. That is the challenge that the Colorado Springs MSA faces today.

# El Paso County Business Conditions Index



Source: Southern Colorado Economic Forum

**The first chart** shows the El Paso County Business Conditions Index, a monthly geometric average of 10 seasonally adjusted indices including: single family and townhome permits, new car sales, employment rate, foreclosures, employment, wages and salaries, sales and use tax collections, and airport enplanements. BCI also includes the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Manufacturing Index and the University of Michigan's Consumer Sentiment Index. The Consumer Sentiment Index measures national consumer attitudes on the business climate, personal finance and spending.

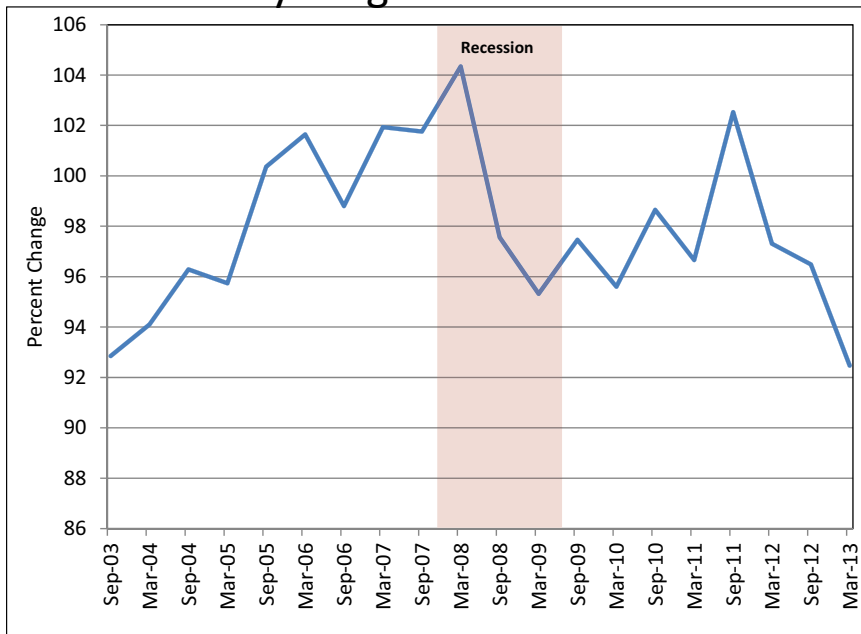
### Why is this important?

The BCI represents an overall measure of the economic health of the area. It reflects current conditions and anticipates future conditions of the economy, helping business owners, local governments, households and nonprofits to plan for hiring, spending and investing.

### How are we doing?

The BCI is trending upward from its 2009 low point as the economy recovers from recession. The BCI is up 4.6 percent from March 2012. Seven of the 10 indicators that make up the BCI are higher than a year ago.

# El Paso County Wage Index



Source: Southern Colorado Economic Forum

**The second chart** shows El Paso County wages and salaries.

### Why is this important?

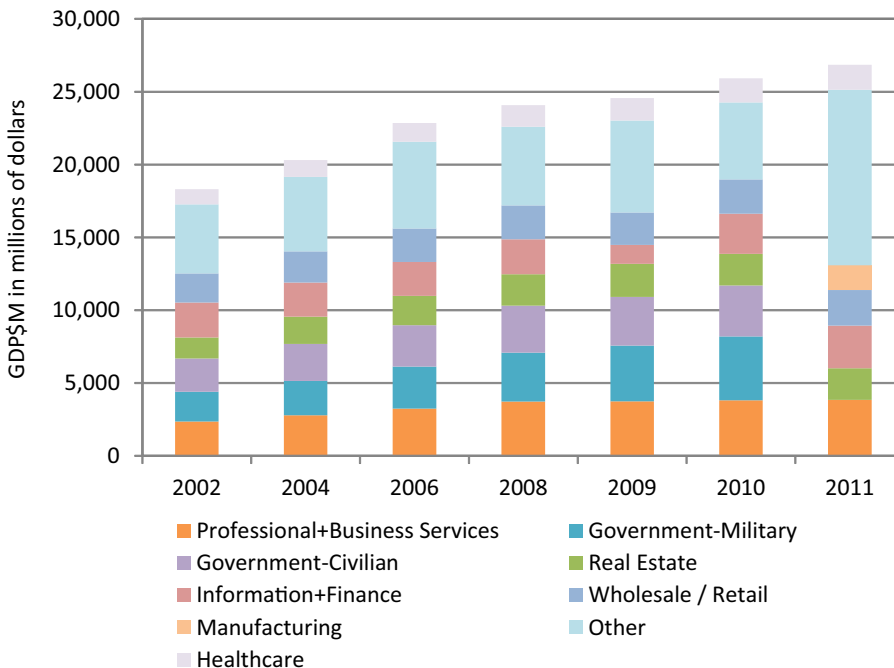
Wages represent a measure of the economic health of the area.

### How are we doing?

The wage index is at its lowest point in 10 years, even lower than during the recession.

Wages in March 2013 were 11.4 percent below the March 2008 peak. This reflects jobs lost during the recent recession and the loss of higher-paying technology jobs.

# Gross Domestic Product



Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

The chart shows the growth and composition of the Colorado Springs MSA Gross Domestic Product through 2011 (data for 2012 were not available at publication time). GDP is the measure of goods and services produced by labor, land and capital in a specific region.

After adjustment for inflation (to remove the effect of price increases and provide a measure of real economic growth,) GDP grew 1.9 percent from 2010 to 2011.

The table shows Gross Domestic Product value and growth rankings among comparison MSAs.

### Why is this important?

GDP data provide a consistent measure across all states and metropolitan areas. The size, growth rate and composition of the GDP directly influence the tax base. A flat or declining GDP, or a growth rate that does not keep up with inflation plus population growth, may result in a degradation of infrastructure that adversely impacts quality of life.

### How are we doing?

GDP in the Colorado Springs MSA ranked 86 of 366 in the U.S. in 2011, three positions below 2001. From 2001-2011, local GDP grew at a compound annual growth rate of 4.2 percent, better than Denver, Fort Collins or Albuquerque. Austin,

## GDP Benchmark Cities Comparison (Current Dollars)

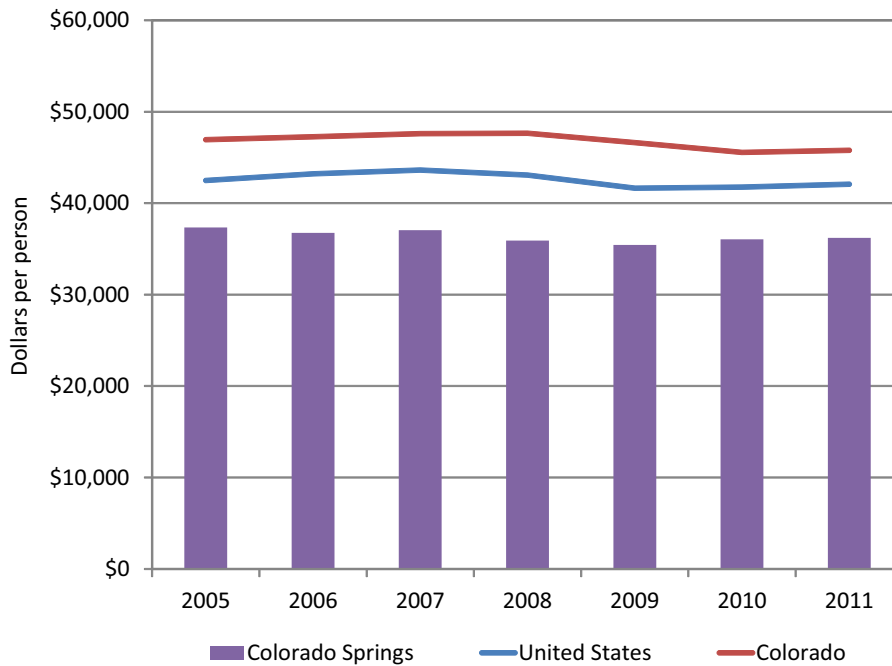
Metropolitan Area	GDP Value		GDP Growth	
	2011 \$M	Rank out of 366	2001-2011 CAGR*	Rank out of 366
Denver	161,956	18	3.9%	182
Austin	90,913	34	5.7%	47
Omaha	48,979	52	4.4%	122
Albuquerque	37,875	62	3.6%	207
Boise	27,203	83	4.7%	105
Colorado Springs	26,855	86	4.2%	150
Fort Collins	12,003	159	4.1%	162

Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

\*CAGR: Compound Annual Growth Rate

Omaha and Boise had growth rates significantly higher than Colorado Springs'. Our rank of 150 out of 366 metropolitan areas for GDP growth shows that we are "middle of the pack" and falling behind many of the cities with which we compete to attract jobs.

# Real Gross Domestic Product Per Capita



Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

**The chart** shows the combination of inflation-adjusted level of economic output (real GDP) with the number of people in the population to provide a measurement of how productive the population is in generating goods and services.

**The table** shows Gross Domestic Product rank and change per person among comparison MSAs.

**Why is this important?**  
A community with a high GDP per capita is more likely to have individuals with more discretionary income for high-value purchases and donations to philanthropic causes. High productivity results in a sustainable, high standard of living.

Real GDP per capita is a more important measurement of a community's economic strength than GDP alone because it reflects the productivity of the community workforce in creating wealth.

## How are we doing?

Over the last decade, this measure has increased only 0.1 percent annually in the Colorado Springs MSA and actually declined in four years. In 2011, real per capita GDP in the MSA rose 0.4 percent.

## Real GDP Per Capita Benchmark (2005 Dollars)

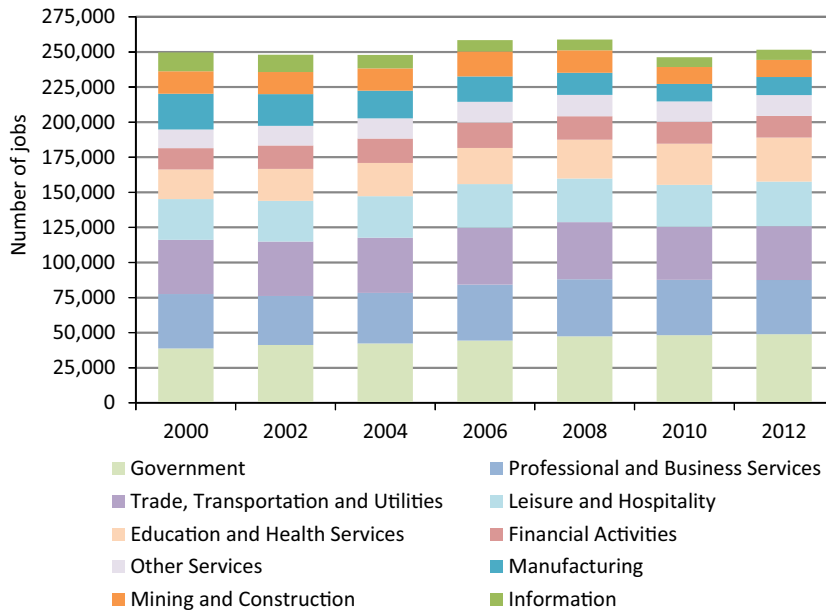
Metropolitan Area	2011 GDP Per Capita Value		Change 2001-2011	
	\$/Person	Rank out of 366	Ten Year % Change	Rank out of 366
Denver	55,509	25	0.2%	182
Omaha	48,273	40	5.4%	122
Austin	47,570	42	14.1%	47
Boise	40,463	112	9.6%	105
Albuquerque	38,772	127	3.1%	207
<b>Colorado Springs</b>	<b>36,205</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>150</b>
Fort Collins	35,501	161	6.1%	162

Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

Colorado Springs' MSA's real GDP per capita rank of 151 (out of 366) is lower than its nominal national GDP rank and below five of the six benchmark cities. Adjusted for inflation, the 2012 rank is also below the 2001 rank, which says we are moving in the wrong direction. We rank 211 in annual growth since 2001, a measure influenced by local industries, the number of retired, unemployed or underemployed citizens, and enlisted military who do not provide traditional economic output. Lack of job growth compared to population growth means that fewer workers, providing lower output, are paying for the services needed by a growing population. This adversely affects the overall quality of life.



# Employment by Industry Segment



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**These charts** show the number of jobs in each major industry segment (excluding military and farm jobs) in the Colorado Springs MSA and the change in each sector over the last 12 years.

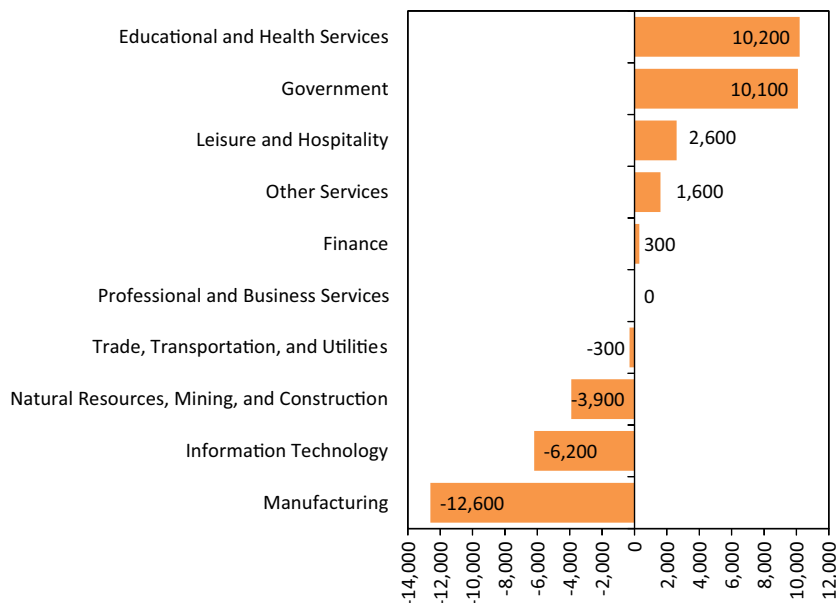
### Why is this important?

A diverse economic base provides a hedge against normal employment cycles and changes in economic and political conditions. It is important to focus on high value, primary jobs such as those in information technology, manufacturing and professional services, which provide above-average income and generate secondary jobs in the community.

### How are we doing?

After falling from a high of 261,000 jobs in 2008 to a low of 246,300 in 2010, civilian non-farm jobs recovered to 251,600 in 2012. Government remained the largest employer in the Colorado Springs MSA in 2012.

# Change in Civilian Non-Farm Jobs



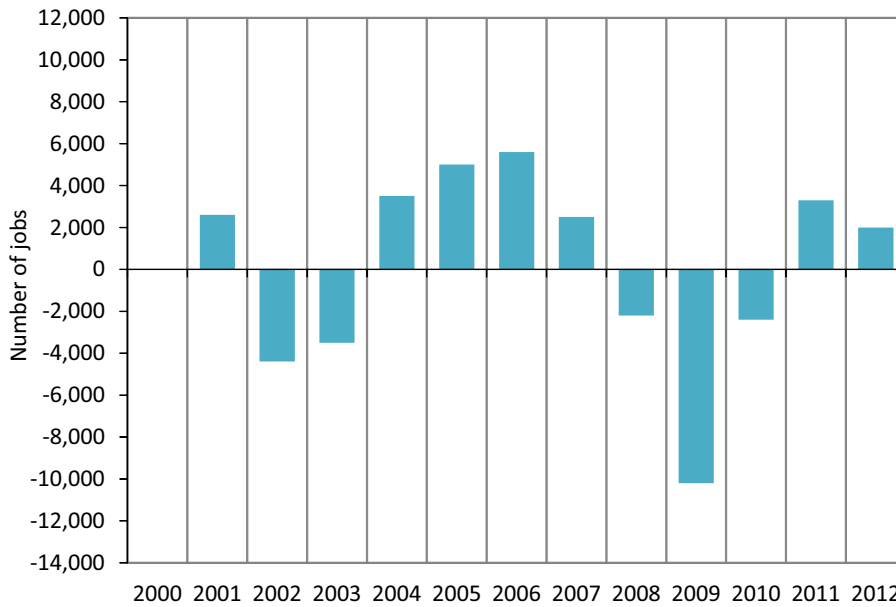
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A local economy dependent on government and military employment is exposed to the uncertainties of politics and tax revenue collections. The two largest government-related industries, Education and Health Services and Local, State and Federal Government, had the largest growth between 2000 and 2012, adding more than 10,000 jobs each.

Since 2000, we have lost 18,800 information technology and manufacturing jobs, although the employment in these two industries stabilized during the past two years. These industries have some of the highest potential for innovation and wealth creation. The loss of these jobs has had and will continue to have a significant negative impact on the local economy.

# Primary Job Growth/Losses

## Civilian Non-Farm Job Growth/Decline



2000 = 249,800 total jobs

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**This chart** shows the net number of jobs added or lost to the Colorado Springs MSA economy since 2000. It does not include active duty military personnel.

### Why is this important?

Between 2000 and 2013, the population of the Colorado Springs MSA grew by an average of more than 10,500 people per year. In our region in the first quarter of 2013, approximately 46 percent of the population was in the civilian workforce. This suggests that for each 10,000 person increase in the population, we will need to add 4,600 new jobs or more than 1,500 basic industry jobs, assuming that each of those jobs supports two additional non-basic industry jobs.

### How are we doing?

Primary employers (those that bring in money from outside the region) drive the local economy.

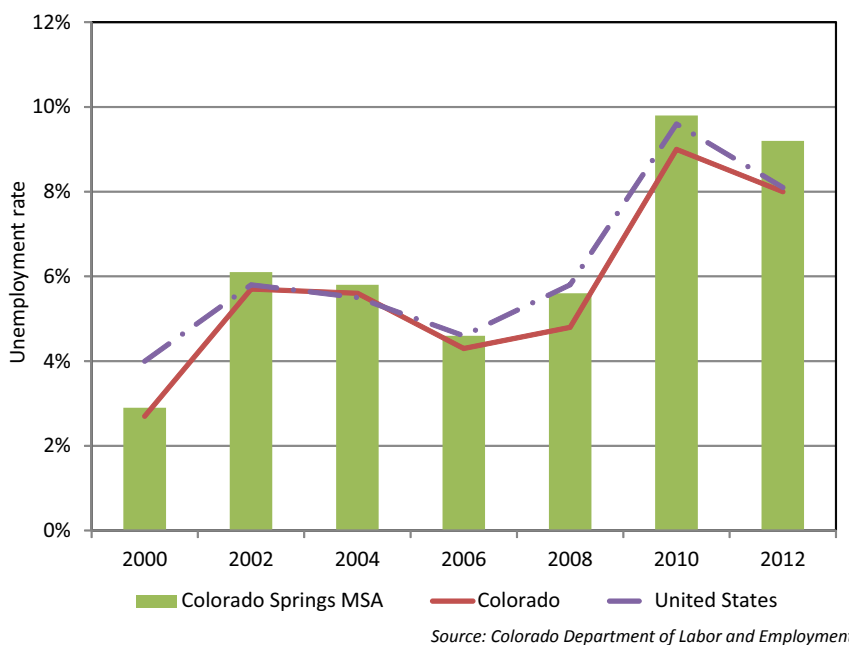
These employers include manufacturing, agriculture, mining, federal government facilities and the tourism industry. Retiree income, including pensions, dividends and interest, and Social Security, has a similar impact. During the past 12 years, we appear to have lost almost 19,000 primary jobs in manufacturing and information technology, while gaining an unknown number of primary jobs in other industries.

The loss of primary jobs in the Colorado Springs MSA is due to several factors, including globalization and the outsourcing of manufacturing jobs, lack of availability of high-tech employees and possibly the lack of incentive packages to encourage companies to relocate here. It should be noted, however, that many high-growth, desirable cities do not use incentives (e.g. Boulder, Fort Collins.)



For more information on population change, see pages 9 and 10.

# Unemployment Rates



The chart and table show the average unemployment rate for the Colorado Springs MSA, the State of Colorado, and the U.S. Monthly unemployment estimates are based on a telephone survey of 1,400 households in Colorado. An individual is identified as unemployed only if he/she is out of work, is available for a job, and has actively looked for work in the past four weeks.

### Why is this important?

The unemployment rate has traditionally been identified as a key indicator of overall economic health in national, state and local economies. An unemployment rate below 5 percent is considered a positive indication of how an economy is performing. People who have given up looking for work are not counted as unemployed, so the unemployment rate understates the actual level of the problem. High unemployment figures for an extended period of time place burdens

Average Annual Unemployment Rate Comparison							
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Colorado Springs	2.9%	6.1%	5.8%	4.7%	5.7%	9.7%	9.2%
Denver-Aurora-Broomfield	2.6%	5.9%	5.9%	4.5%	5.0%	9.0%	7.9%
Albuquerque, NM	4.1%	5.1%	5.3%	4.0%	4.3%	8.3%	7.3%
Boise City - Nampa, ID	3.7%	5.1%	4.2%	2.7%	5.1%	9.1%	6.9%
Fort Collins-Loveland, CO	2.5%	4.7%	4.7%	4.0%	4.3%	6.8%	6.4%
Austin-Round Rock, TX	3.0%	5.9%	5.1%	4.2%	4.4%	7.1%	5.8%
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	2.8%	3.9%	4.3%	3.4%	3.7%	5.2%	4.4%
State of Colorado	2.7%	5.7%	5.6%	4.3%	4.9%	9.0%	8.0%
United States	4.0%	5.8%	5.5%	4.6%	5.8%	9.4%	8.1%

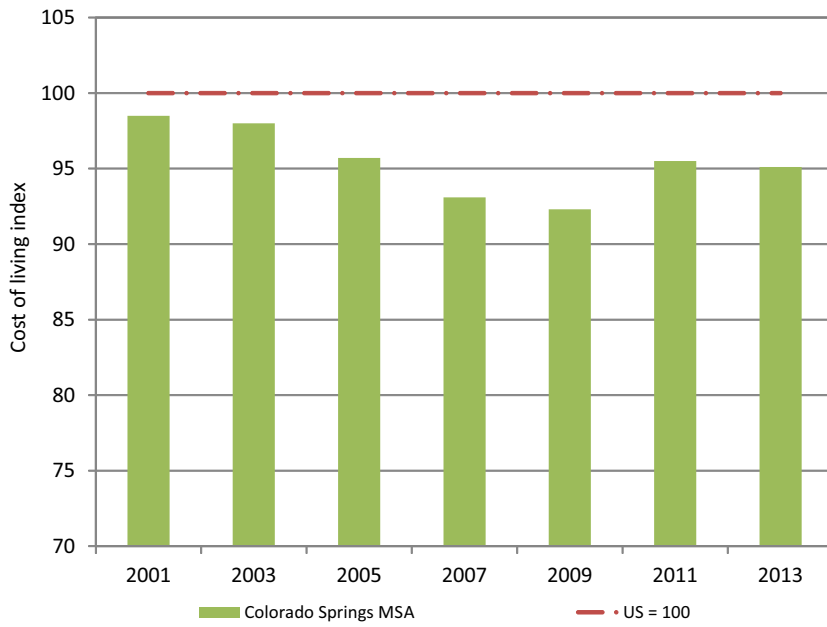
Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Bureau of Labor Statistics

on many areas of a community. Crime may increase, volunteerism may decrease and overall community engagement may suffer as unemployed residents prioritize their basic needs.

### How are we doing?

The annual average Colorado Springs MSA unemployment rate for 2012 was 9.2 percent, 1.1 percentage points higher than the national rate and 1.2 percentage points higher than the state rate. The Colorado Springs MSA also had the highest unemployment rate among the six benchmark MSA areas in 2011 and 2012. In Colorado Springs, the nation and the benchmark cities, the unemployment rate is trending lower. Generally, the unemployment rate is trending lower locally, among benchmark cities and in the nation.

# Cost of Living Index



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Communities Survey

The chart shows the cost of housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services as purchased by the top 20 percent of income earners.

The table shows comparisons of five other MSAs and the U.S. in regards to the median household income, which is the income level at which half the working population earns more and half earns less. Affordability is measured as the difference between the “Income Index” and the “Cost of Living.” The greater the affordability figure, the better.

### Why is this important?

The difference between the Income Index and the Cost of Living Index for the Colorado Springs MSA continued to be to be significant in 2013. However, we are less affordable than three of our comparison cities.

# Community Affordability Index

MSA	Median Household Income 2013	Income Index	Cost of Living Index	Affordability
Omaha	\$56,346	106.7	87.7	19.0
Denver	\$61,764	117.1	103.2	13.9
Austin	\$57,109	108.2	93.1	15.1
Colorado Springs	\$57,111	108.2	95.1	13.1
Boise	\$50,899	96.5	92.3	4.2
Albuquerque	\$48,663	92.2	91.5	0.7
United States	\$52,762	100.0	100	0.0

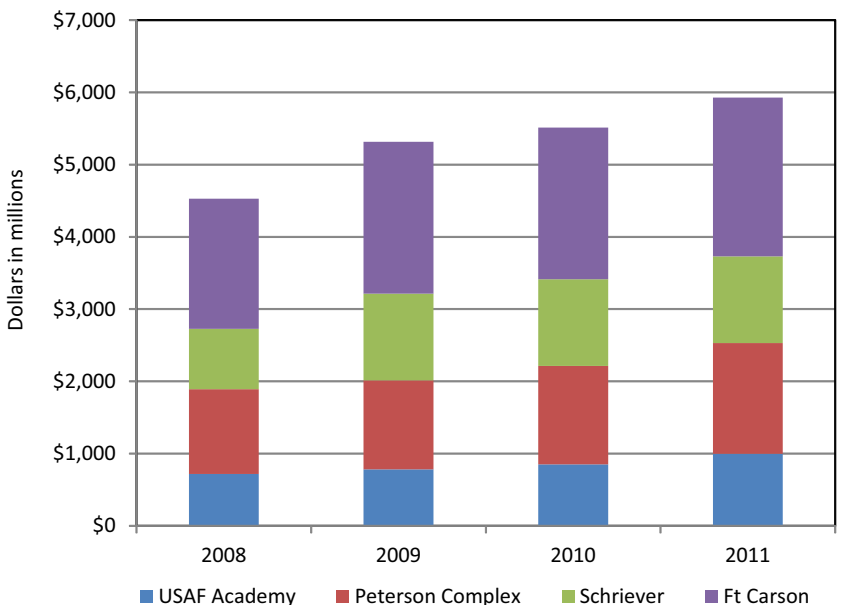
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Communities Survey

### How are we doing?

The cost of living in the MSA has remained below the U.S. average in the 12-year period shown in the chart. The overall affordability of the MSA is greater than two of the five comparison MSAs.



## Economic Influence of Military



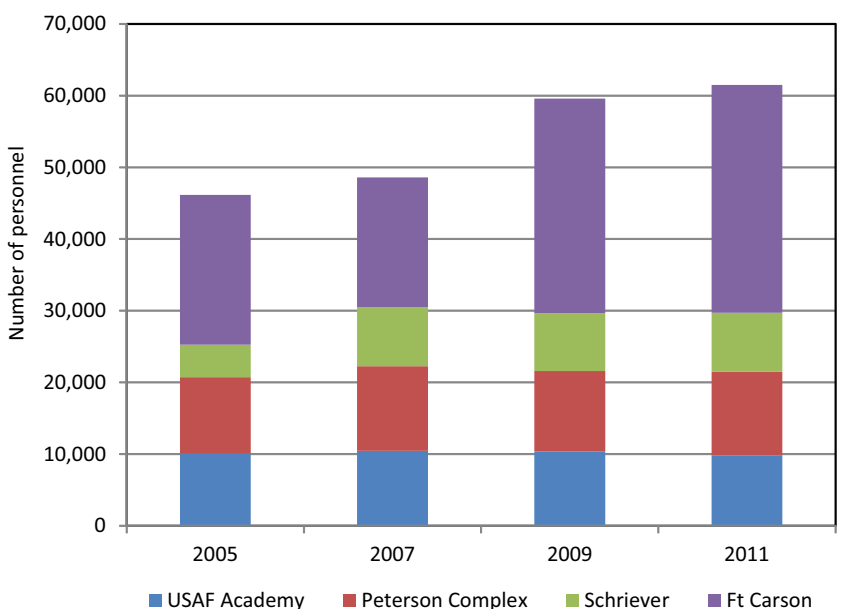
Source: Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

**These charts** show the economic impact on the MSA of Colorado Springs' four military installations and related employment. Between 2000 and 2011, the economic impact increased 140 percent, from \$2.5 billion to almost \$6 billion. Military employment of both civilian and military personnel grew to 61,501 jobs, a 47 percent increase.

### Why is this important?

The military has been a critical part of our economy for decades. The total economic impact is estimated at 22 percent of Gross Domestic Product.

## Military Base Workforce



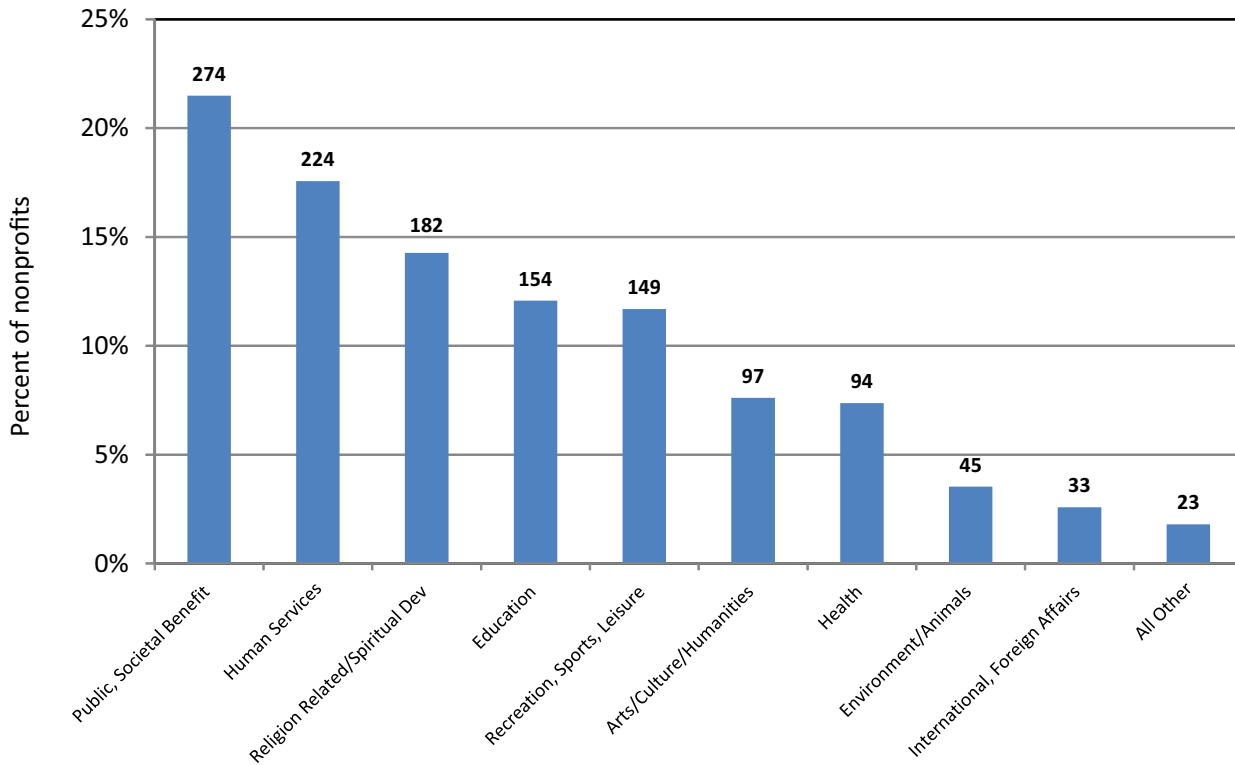
Source: Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

The military component of our economy provides a stabilizing influence for the region when economic boom and bust cycles affect other industry segments. The growth and stability of our military installations translates into a wide range of technical and service sectors in the local economy and has been beneficial for regional universities and colleges.

### How are we doing?

There has been steady military growth, primarily because of the arrival of the 4th Infantry Division from Ft. Hood, Texas. The addition of a Combat Aviation Brigade and \$750 million of accompanying construction at Fort Carson will be offset by the loss of a combat brigade and an accompanying 1,500 troops.

# Nonprofit Sector



Source: Summit Economics LLC

**This chart** shows the percentage of nonprofits serving various community interests.

## Why is this important?

Nonprofits are a primary industry that is often overlooked, attracting new dollars into a community in the form of grants and donations. Almost 88 percent of the support for the nonprofit groups in the Colorado Springs MSA comes from outside the region.

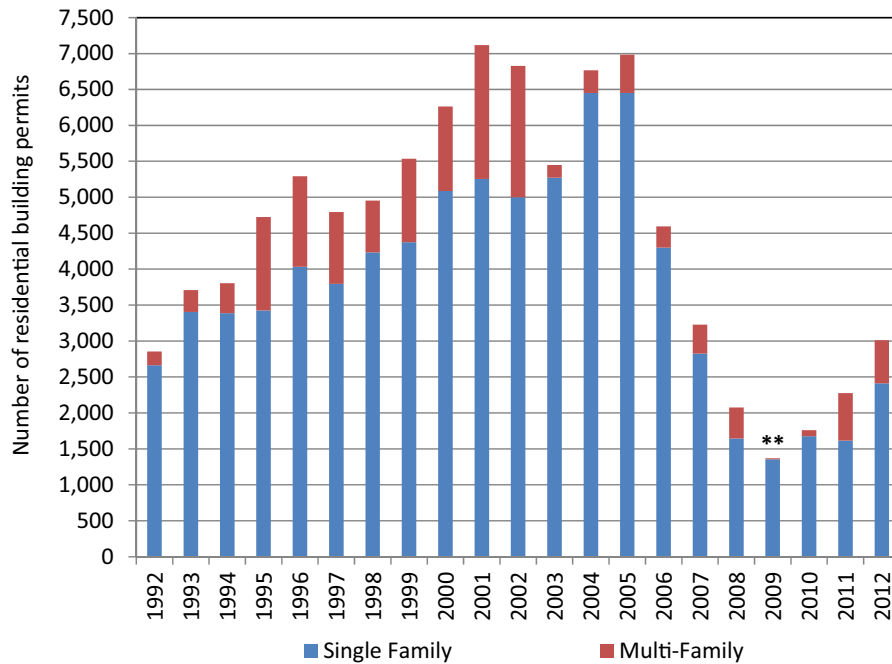
## How are we doing?

The nonprofit sector in the Colorado Springs MSA is very large. If it were its own industry, it would be the seventh largest sector with just under 17,000 direct employees and 1,275 entities (not including the estimated 800 churches in the region.) This is larger than manufacturing, construction or public administration. The sector had total direct wages and benefits of \$825 million; it contributed about \$1.7 billion (6.5 percent) to the region's Gross Domestic Product.

Over half of annual expenditures were made by nonprofits in three fields - international/foreign affairs, health and recreation/sports.

In the chart above, religious nonprofits are under-represented (at 14.3 percent) because many of them classify themselves as public/societal benefit, human services, international/foreign affairs, or health.

# Residential Construction Activity



**This chart** shows both the single family and multi-family building permit activity in the Colorado Springs MSA since 1992.

### Why is this important?

The construction of new homes and commercial real estate in a normal economy provides as much as 10 percent of local economic activity and a similar portion of local employment, especially for skilled trades and unskilled workers. The taxes and fees collected from the development and construction industry are a significant portion of city, county and utility revenues. New home construction is a common measure of the health of the economy, both nationally and locally, and is a good measure of consumer confidence.

### How are we doing?

New home construction grew steadily through the 1990s, peaking in the MSA in 2001 at 7,116 permits. After declining in 2002

\*\* Only 16 multi-family permits were issued in 2009

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

and 2003, it recovered almost completely by 2005, then fell steadily through 2009 to only 1,369 permits. Permits have more than doubled over the last three years, but through June 2013 were still only 48.7 percent of their 2001 peak. Through June 2013 new home construction was up 9.0 percent, led by single family construction, up 41.1 percent.

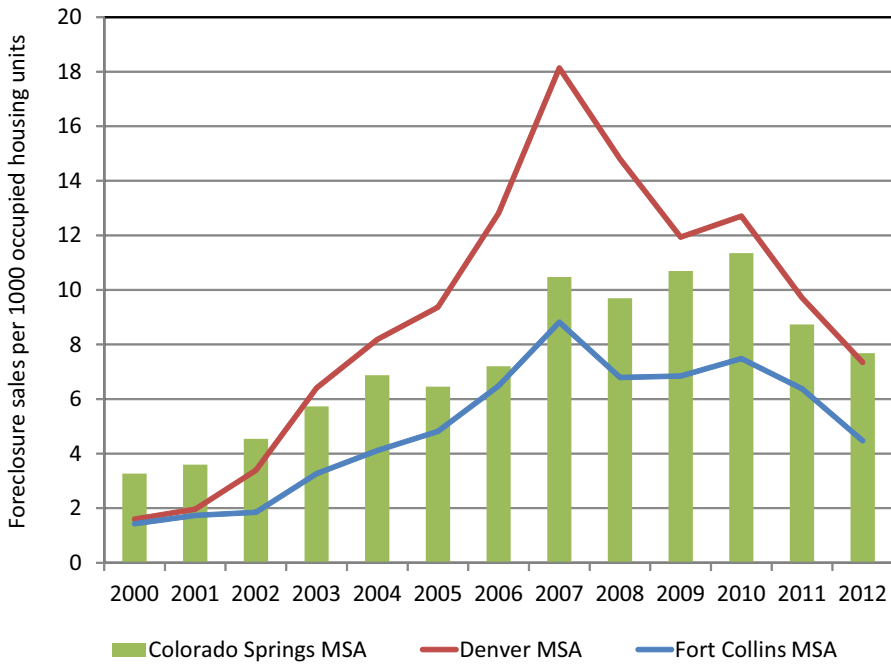


**For more information** on building permits, see page 27-28.



Photograph by Keith Syvinski

# Foreclosure Rates



Source: Public Trustees Association of Colorado

**This chart** compares the annual rate of completed, non-judicial foreclosures in the Colorado Springs MSA with the rates in the Fort Collins and Denver MSAs, measured in foreclosure sales per 1,000 households.

**Why is this important?**  
The foreclosure rate reflects property owners who are in economic distress. Foreclosure sales reduce property values, affecting other residents' ability to sell or refinance their property. Foreclosed properties, especially bank-owned, often sit vacant and become blighted, reducing neighborhood property value, attractiveness and quality of life.

**How are we doing?**  
From 2003-2011, our region's rates have remained between the two comparison MSAs. In 2012, the Denver and Colorado Springs MSA rates are approximately the same.

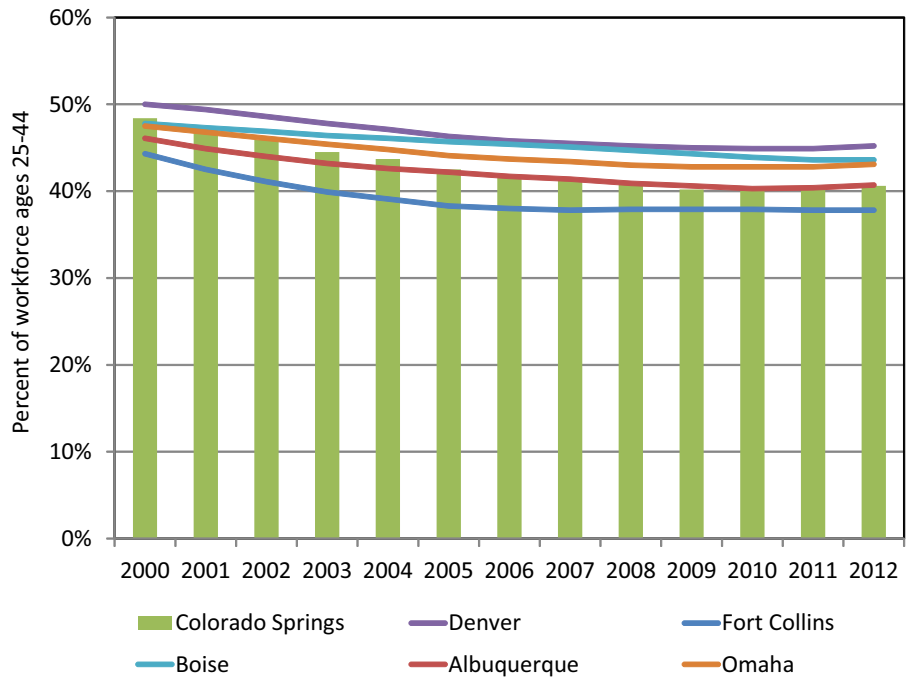


Photograph by John Salazar

ECONOMY



# Prime Working-Age Residents



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder 2001-2011

**This chart** shows the percentage of total Colorado Springs MSA workforce that is considered “prime working age” (25-44) from 2000-2011, compared to benchmark cities. This is not the percentage of the total population; rather, the percentage of residents actually working.

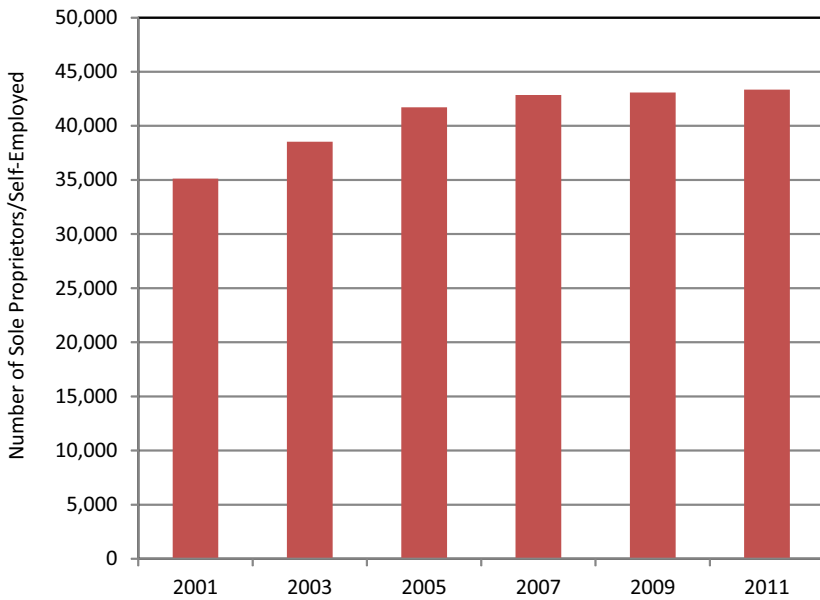
**Why is this important?** Young workers are a key component of a workforce. They engage in entrepreneurial activity and innovation and provide a key resource for existing and new companies. A decline in this segment jeopardizes the ability of Colorado Springs to attract and retain primary jobs.

## How are we doing?

Young workers as a percentage of the MSA’s total workforce has declined over the past 12 years. While we’re declining, many of our comparison cities are increasing. As seen on page 10, residents ages 25-44 are also declining as a percentage of the total population, falling below the critical 30 percent threshold used by many business site-selection consultants. This trend makes us less attractive to high-value, knowledge-based businesses that require an energetic talent pool.

# Small Business

## Sole Proprietors and Self-Employed



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**This chart** shows the number of sole proprietorships and self-employed workers in the Colorado Springs MSA and the change over time.

### Why is this important?

Small business plays an important role in the economy.

According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses - defined as having less than 500 employees - generate more than 60 percent of new jobs in the country and available information supports the proposition that this is true in our region.

Small businesses provide goods and services that support large business activities. Much innovation is done by small business. Removing obstacles to the creation and operation of small business can stimulate economic growth by offering residents the opportunity to create their own employment and employ others.

### How are we doing?

The region has seen an increase in sole proprietors and the self-employed since 2001, which leveled off in 2007, possibly due to the recession. In 2010, the SBA reported that our region has about 13,000 firms with fewer than 500 employees.

# Milken Institute National Ranking

## Best Performing Cities 2002-2012

City Rank	2002	2004	2007* <small>*no report in 2006</small>	2008	2010	2012
1 - 10	Boise			Austin	Austin	Austin
11 - 20	Austin	Albuquerque Boise	Austin Boise			Fort Collins
21 - 30	<b>Co Springs</b>			Boise	Oklahoma City	Denver
31 - 40	Albuquerque		Albuquerque	Albuquerque	Des Moines	
41 - 50	Fort Collins	Des Moines		Denver Fort Collins	Fort Collins Omaha	
51 - 60	Denver					<b>Co Springs</b>
61 - 70		Austin			Denver Albuquerque	
71 - 80			Fort Collins			
81 - 90	Omaha	<b>Co Springs</b>		Omaha		Boise Omaha
91 - 100			<b>Co Springs</b>		<b>Co Springs</b>	
101 - 110			Denver Omaha			
111 - 120						
121 - 130		Omaha		<b>Co Springs</b>		
131 - 140		Denver				
141 - 150		Fort Collins				Albuquerque

Source: Milken Institute

**This table** shows Milken Institute’s “Best Performing Cities - Where America’s Jobs Are Created and Sustained” rankings for the 200 largest metropolitan areas in the United States. The ranking is a composite index based on job growth, income growth and the strength of technology within the local economy. One is the highest ranking.

**Why is this important?**

Colorado Springs competes nationally and globally to attract new companies and expand existing businesses. The Milken Institute provides an objective benchmark to other communities and an assessment of our performance. This publication is widely reviewed by business executives and site-selection consultants for companies looking to expand or relocate. A low ranking means that Colorado Springs is potentially less attractive to prospective companies, especially those seeking a community with growth opportunities, a solid economy and a high-technology labor base from which to draw in the future.

**How are we doing?**

In 2012, Colorado Springs was ranked 57th among the 200 Best Performing Large Cities. This was a substantial improvement from our ranking of 99th in 2010. The table shows that we rank near the middle of our benchmark group.

In other Milken comparisons, Colorado Springs continued to be ranked very high. For example, we ranked 12th in high technology group concentration and 40th in wage growth. We ranked 39th out of 200 Large Cities for Successful Aging for ages 65-79. This is important since 10.1 percent of our population is already 65+ and this rises to 17 percent over the next ten years as the Baby Boom moves into their retirement years.



**For more information** on population growth, see page 10. For more information on Silver Sneaker participation, see page 90. For more information on protective services, see page 118. For more information on senior health, see pages 69-70.



# Education

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*Photograph by WaveBreak Media*

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The quality of education in a region is directly related to its quality of life now and in the future. An educated, productive citizenry fuels a vibrant economy. Education is a lifelong experience that begins well before a child ever sets foot in a classroom and continues long past a cap-and-gown commencement. The benefits of a quality education, to both individuals and regions as a whole, are manifold. There is one factor that tremendously impacts educational opportunities and attainment at every stage of life, and that is poverty.

The first five years of a child's life, when the human brain develops more rapidly than at any other subsequent period, is a time of enormous social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth. Parents and caregivers who provide a child with activities, books and environments that foster a strong foundation provide children with the tools to grow into successful adults.

The 21st century global economy demands education beyond high school, whether it is a high-skilled certification, military training, a two-year degree or a four-year degree.

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort that established a single set of clear educational standards for kindergarten through twelfth grade in English language arts and mathematics. Currently, 45 states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity have adopted the Common Core State Standards. Colorado adopted the standards in 2010 and plans to fully implement them in the 2013-2014 school year.

The MSA has 17 school districts (see table at right). Data represented in this section will include the seven largest school districts (six El Paso, one Teller) plus the two largest school districts representing the eastern portion of the MSA. They are: El Paso County's Academy 20, Colorado Springs 11, Ellicott 22, Falcon 49, Fountain 8, Harrison 2, Peyton 23 JT, Widefield 3, and Teller County's: Woodland Park RE-2.



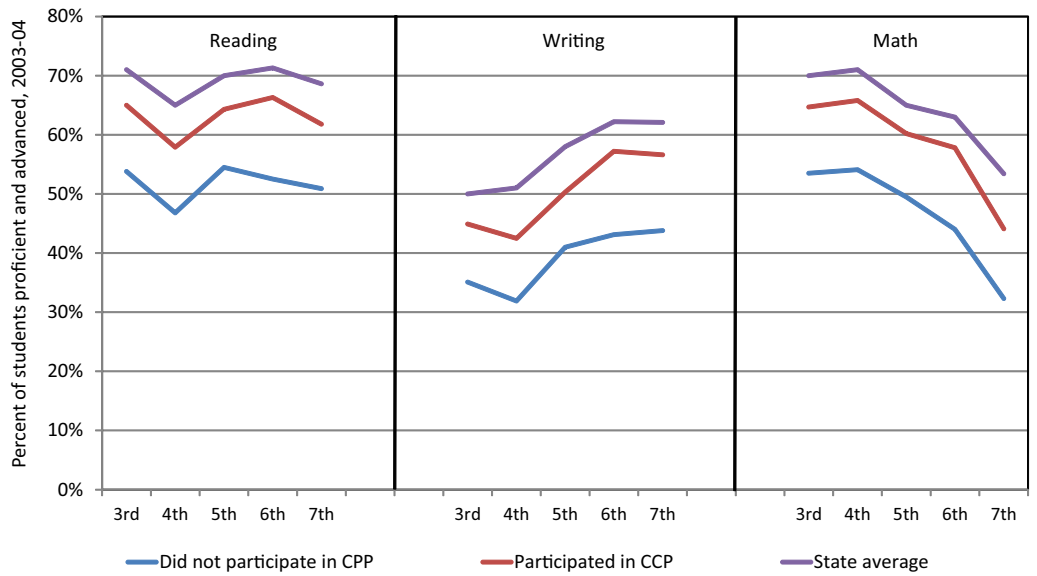
Photograph courtesy of Colorado Springs School District 11

### School District Enrollment and Per-Pupil Revenue

School District	County	Enrollment	PPR
Colorado Springs 11	El Paso	28,993	\$7,285.15
Academy 20	El Paso	23,973	\$7,055.09
Falcon 49	El Paso	15,478	\$7,049.39
Harrison 2	El Paso	10,775	\$7,518.30
Widefield 3	El Paso	9,297	\$7,055.34
Fountain 8	El Paso	7,840	\$7,055.34
Lewis-Palmer 38	El Paso	6,153	\$7,055.43
Cheyenne Mountain 12	El Paso	4,651	\$7,055.43
Woodland Park RE-2	Teller	2,617	\$7,106.17
Manitou Springs 14	El Paso	1,500	\$7,059.21
Ellicott 22	El Paso	1,027	\$7,921.36
Peyton 23 JT	El Paso	656	\$8,085.89
Calhan RJ-1	El Paso	510	\$8,321.51
Cripple Creek-Victor RE-1	Teller	377	\$8,664.02
Miami-Yoder 60 JT	El Paso	268	\$10,057.79
Hanover 28	El Paso	227	\$11,455.82
Edison 54 JT	El Paso	185	\$12,059.98

Source: Colorado Department of Education

# At-Risk Students With and Without Preschool



Source: Colorado Department of Education

**This chart** shows testing outcomes for third to seventh graders in reading, writing and math, comparing scores for at-risk youth participants and non-participants in the Colorado Preschool Program with the state average in 2003-2004.

### Why is this important?

The early years of a child's life are critical to success in school and in life. Early experiences influence brain development, establishing neuron connections that provide the foundation for language, reasoning, problem solving, social

skills, behavior and emotional health. Babies and toddlers need positive early learning experiences to foster intellectual, social and emotional development and lay the foundation for later school success.

Poverty is one of the most detrimental factors in this arena. Less than 50 percent of children in poverty are prepared to start school at the age of five, compared to 75 percent in families with income above poverty level. The importance of preschool in this population is critical.

At-risk children who do not receive a high-quality early childhood education are more likely to:

- drop out of school
- become a teen parent
- be placed in Special Education
- never attend college
- be arrested for violent crime

### How are we doing?

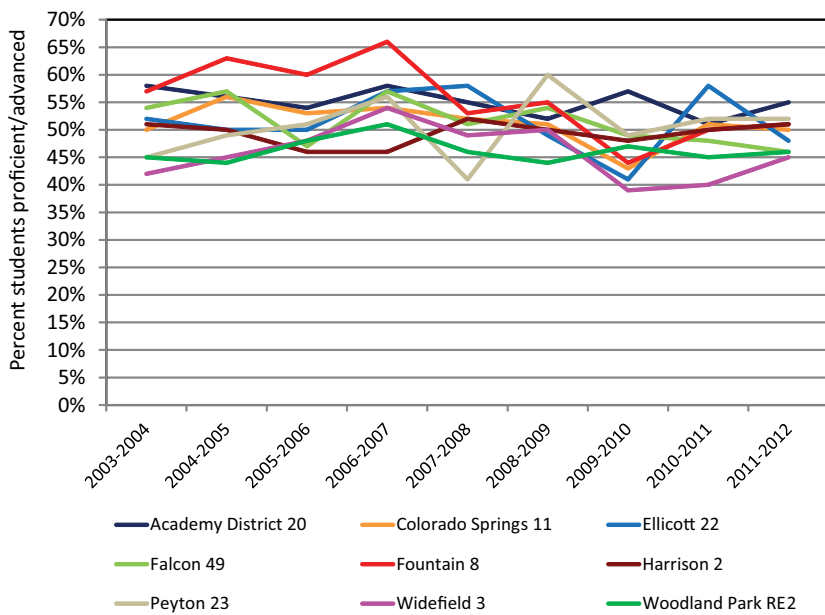
The Colorado Preschool Program provides free, high-quality early childhood education and support services to at-risk 3- and 4-year-old children to boost kindergarten readiness and prevent achievement gaps. To be eligible for the program, certain risk factors must exist in a child's life. These risk factors include poverty, parental drug or alcohol abuse, homelessness, or having a parent under the age of 18, among others. On average, each child enrolled in CPP has approximately three risk factors, with the most commonly reported risk factors being poor socioeconomic status (eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch), needing language development and having poor social skills.

Children who participate in CPP demonstrate remarkable results, both during their preschool year and during their later years of schooling. According to the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment, which assesses social-emotional, physical, cognitive and language development, as well as literacy and math, children enrolled in CPP typically start the school year far behind their peers on these components of school readiness, but nearly close those gaps by the end of the year. Additionally, Colorado Student Assessment Program and Transitional Colorado Assessment Program scores show that at-risk children who participated in CPP consistently outperform their at-risk peers who did not participate in the program in reading, writing and math. Among seventh graders, the reading achievement gap between these two groups of at-risk students was more than 10 percentage points.



For more information about child poverty, see page 112.

# Fourth Grade Reading Median Growth Data By District

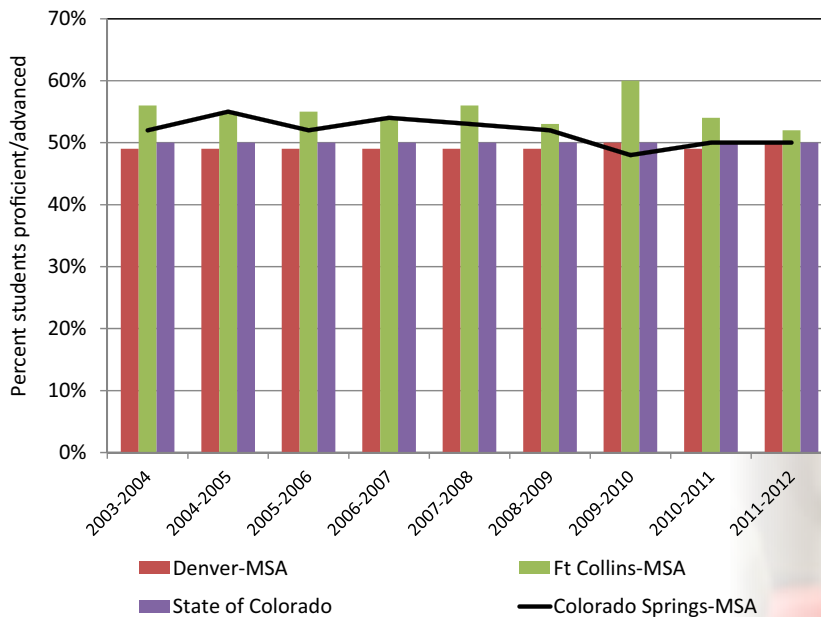


**These charts** show the percentage of fourth-grade reading median growth in the top two of four assessment levels, proficient and advanced. The 50th percentile is the benchmark used in this report, per the Colorado Department of Education. The first chart compares individual school districts in the Colorado Springs MSA, and the second chart compares the Colorado Springs MSA overall to two comparison MSAs and the state.

### Why is this important?

Comparing median growth percentiles within a district can tell us whether existing achievement gaps might be closing. Median growth data enables measurement of student achievement and reveals change in performance over time. Reading proficiently by the end of third grade is an important signpost along a student's road to success. The transition from learning to read, to reading to learn is a significant benchmark. Missing this benchmark has long-term consequences in terms of critical thinking, problem solving, sharing of information and knowledge in the world around them, earning potential and general productivity.

# Median Growth Data by MSA



Source for both charts: Colorado Department of Education

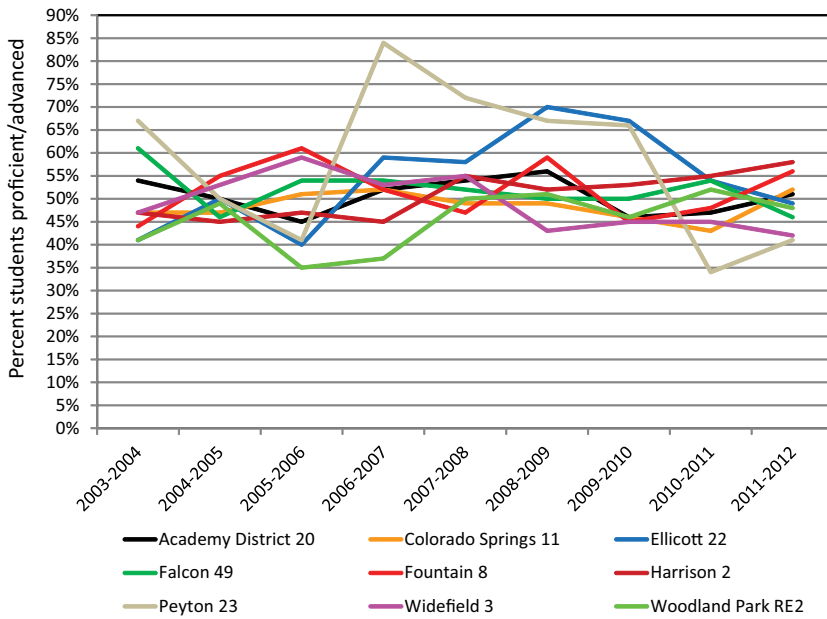
### How are we doing?

Reading proficiency growth continues to be a challenge. Four of the nine school districts highlighted did not reach the benchmark median growth percentile of 50 percent established by the Colorado Department of Education. The three MSAs and the State of Colorado have met this benchmark.

Photograph courtesy of Colorado Springs School District 11

# Tenth Grade Reading

## Median Growth Data By District



**These charts** show the median growth percentage of perfect, proficient and advanced scores in tenth-grade reading. The first chart compares individual school districts in the Colorado Springs MSA, and the second chart compares the Colorado Springs MSA overall to two comparison MSAs and the state.

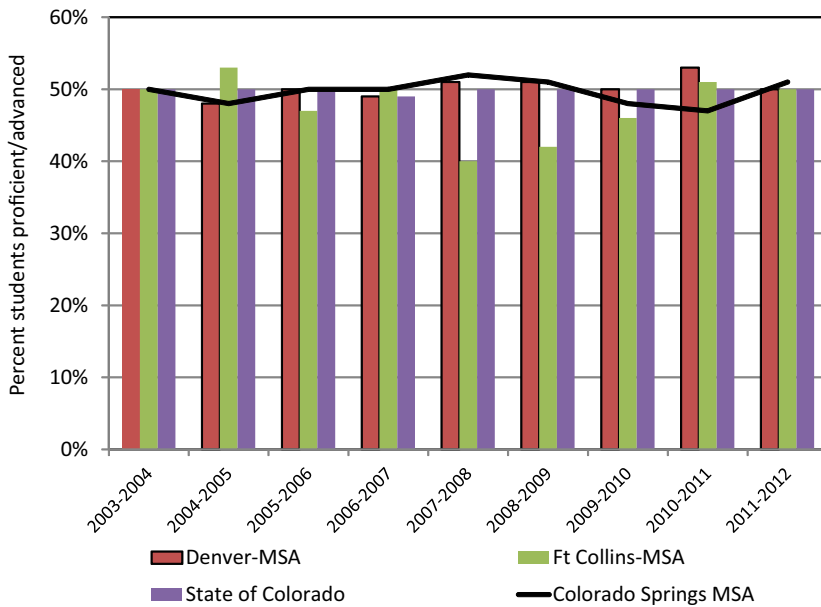
### Why is this important?

Reading proficiency is tied to personal and professional success. Tenth grade is a key point to measure so that students who have not demonstrated proficiency can be on track to meet state standards by graduation.

### How are we doing?

Five of the reported school districts scored below the growth median percentile benchmark established by the Colorado Department of Education of 50 percent. The Colorado Springs MSA improved over the 2010-2011 school year and is performing better than the other reported MSAs and the state.

## Median Growth Data by MSA

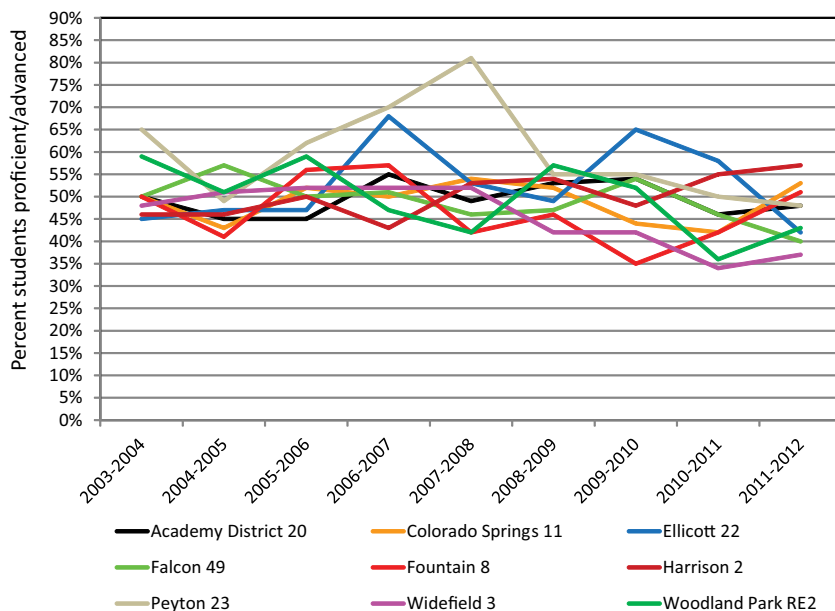


Source for both charts: Colorado Department of Education



# Tenth Grade Math

## Median Growth Data By District



**These charts** show median growth percentages for proficient and advanced tenth-grade math scores. The first chart compares individual school districts in the Colorado Springs MSA, and the second chart compares the Colorado Springs MSA overall to two comparison MSAs and the state.

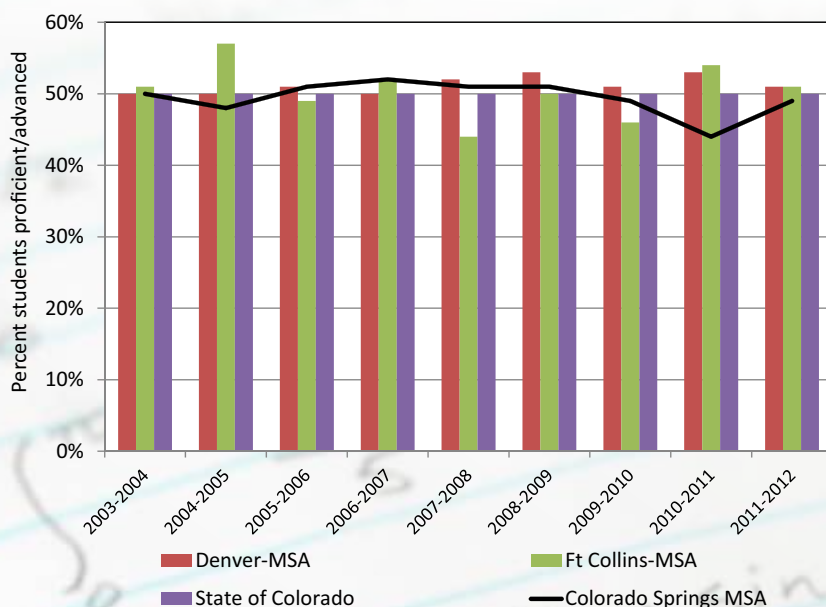
### Why is this important?

Mathematics is essential to the success of students in the 21st century. Comparison is difficult because state assessments are so varied. The movement to adopting Common State Standards would provide apples-to-apples comparisons across the nation.

### How are we doing?

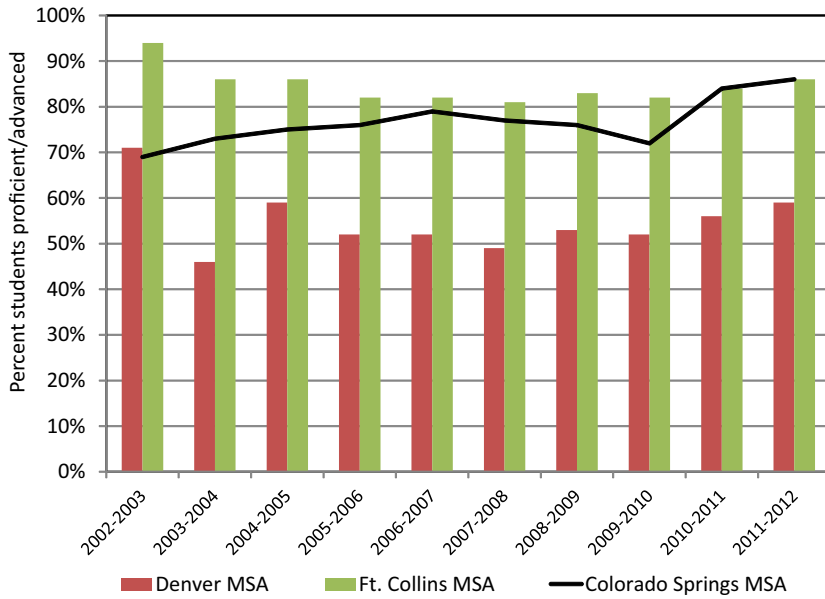
The majority of the school districts measured and the Colorado Springs MSA are not meeting the benchmark growth median percentile of 50.

## Median Growth Data by MSA



Source for both charts: Colorado Department of Education

# High School Graduation Rates



Source: Colorado Department of Education

The first chart shows high school graduation rates in individual local districts and among Front Range MSAs.

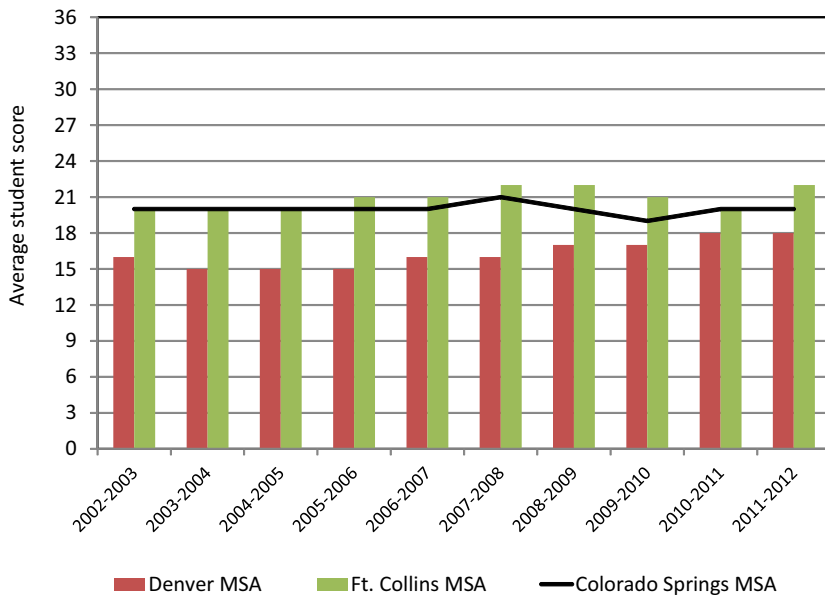
The second chart shows American College Testing scores among Front Range MSAs. A perfect score is 36.

### Why is this important?

The percent of students who graduate from high school is an indicator of academic proficiency and preparation for careers, post-secondary education and training.

The ACT readiness assessment is a curriculum- and standards-based educational and career planning tool used to assess students' academic readiness for college. The ACT is the capstone of the College and Career Readiness System. The test uses the same score scale as the ACT Explore, and ACT Plan, making the system an effective tool to monitor academic progress and student growth.

# American College Testing



Source: Colorado Department of Education

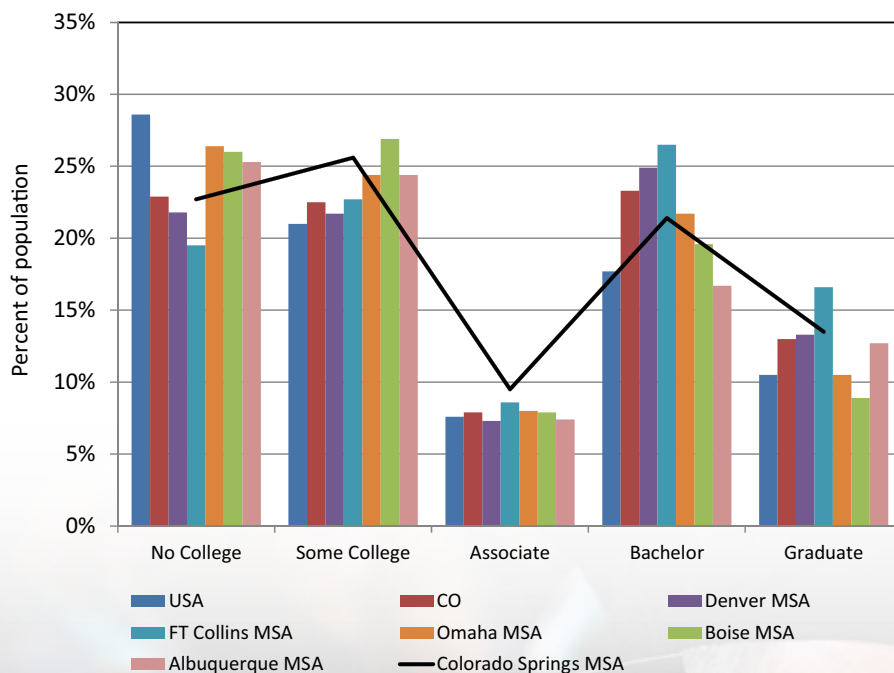
### How are we doing?

The Colorado Springs MSA's graduation rates have trended upward since 2009-2010 to approximately 85 percent in 2011-12. Rates have been higher than the Denver MSA and lower than Fort Collins, until the 2010-2011 school year when the MSA equaled Fort Collins rates.

Some school districts provide multiple avenues to graduation, such as alternative schools, charter schools and programs for at risk students, and concurrent enrollment, which benefit students, but may negatively affect their on-time graduation rates.

Student ACT scores in the Colorado Springs MSA have consistently been higher than Denver and have remained competitive with Fort Collins. In 2012, Colorado students scored an average 20.6, ahead of New Mexico but behind Idaho and Nebraska.

## Education Level for Residents Over 25



**This chart** shows the education levels of Colorado Springs MSA residents over age 25 from 2007-2011.

### Why is this important?

Education is an important factor in determining a person's poverty status. An adult without a high school education is two times more likely to live in poverty than one with a high school diploma and seven times more likely than a college graduate.

### How are we doing?

Colorado Springs MSA residents have attained high levels of education and earned more degrees when compared to similar cities such as Omaha, Boise, and Albuquerque. The percentage of residents with graduate degrees is above the state of Colorado and the country as a whole. The Colorado Springs MSA offer a broad range of educational opportunities from eleven accredited post-secondary institutions, military training, and vocational/trade certification programs.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Photograph by Tom Kimmell and courtesy of UCSS



# Health

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**DEBI NOTTINGHAM**  
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*Photograph by Catherine Higley-Hopkinson*

Visit our website: [www.ppunitedway.org](http://www.ppunitedway.org)



For years, Colorado has enjoyed an enviable health status as compared to other states—we are thinner, healthier, more physically fit.

Our region supports international bike races, ascends America's most famous mountain, and hosts Olympic athletes from across the nation and the world.

But the facts reveal that our personal and community health are changing and our community faces significant challenges for the future. We are getting older, heavier, and are developing more complex physical and mental health problems, resulting in sky-rocketing treatment costs. More importantly, our perception just doesn't match reality. In fact, we aren't nearly as healthy as we think. Kids in our community and state are getting heavier faster than the rest of the nation, and our suicide rate remains high.

Our population is aging, with a 179 percent increase in those over age 65 projected in the next three decades. Wellness of older adults directly affects our quality of life. The risk for developing chronic illnesses such as diabetes, arthritis, cancer and heart disease increases as we age, resulting in increased health care costs. Preventative health services for the Medicare population through the Affordable Care Act of 2010 address this issue. The two leading causes of death of older adults in the Pikes Peak region are cancer and heart disease. Mental health also plays a role: among seniors with heart disease, there is twice the risk of dying if the senior also has anxiety, and depression is seen as a key driver in senior heart failure. New research suggests that a nutritious diet, physical activity, social engagement and mentally stimulating pursuits can help people stay healthy as they age, and that these factors may also help to reduce the risk of cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease.

While the Affordable Care Act seeks to provide more insurance coverage to the currently under-insured and uninsured, having insurance does not guarantee use or access to appointments. Under the Affordable Care Act, more people will be eligible for Medicaid and Medicare, but many physicians in our community no longer accept new Medicaid and Medicare patients, because the reimbursement does not cover their costs.

But there is opportunity within our community. Data exists that helps us better understand critical indicators surrounding our minds and bodies—data we can use to influence and change our trajectory. At a time when we most need care, the shortages in primary care and psychiatric providers present challenges that might spur us on to create innovative solutions.

We live in a community with well-known and respected healthcare resources. Two of our community's largest non-governmental employers are hospitals. We spent several years debating the merits of converting the city-owned hospital to a nonprofit or leased asset, and the vote to lease Memorial Hospital to the University of Colorado Health revealed that voters supported the change. Penrose-St. Francis Health Services recently announced that it was awarded funds from the Centers

for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to develop a statewide Accountable Care Organization, a new model of healthcare delivery with a patient-centered model of coordinated care from the primary-care team.

Peak Vista Community Health Centers has grown in response to need with 21 health centers, including school-based clinics. Community Health Partnership is a two-decade-old coalition of health care providers committed to collaborating to improve the health of our community. CHP operates Community Care of Central Colorado, serving 65,000 Medicaid patients in an Accountable Care Organization that is on the cutting edge of healthcare reform nationally. Concerned about gaps in mental health resources, Community Health Partnership hosted a summit to find solutions to prioritize gaps in care and formulate community-based solutions to those gaps.

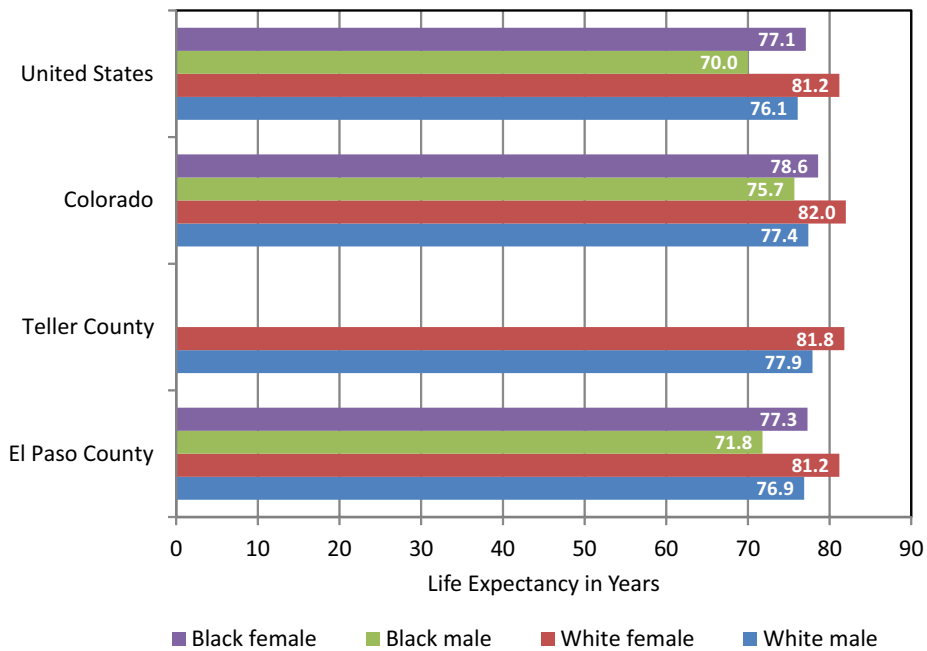
Healthy Community Collaborative, led by El Paso County Public Health, and armed with data from community health assessments conducted in the MSA, our community is coming together around important health issues like obesity, mental health and suicide.

Over the course of the next few pages, we will highlight health in our community. We will look at how health disparities based on income, gender, race and ethnicity impact our community, and we will project the effects of an aging population and health care professional shortages on our systems of care. We will compare ourselves to communities of similar size and begin to understand where we excel and where we can improve.



Photograph courtesy of Penrose-St. Francis

## Life Expectancy by Sex and Race



Source: Population Health Metrics 2011 article

**This chart** shows life expectancy by race and gender for the Colorado Springs MSA, state and U.S.

### Why is this important?

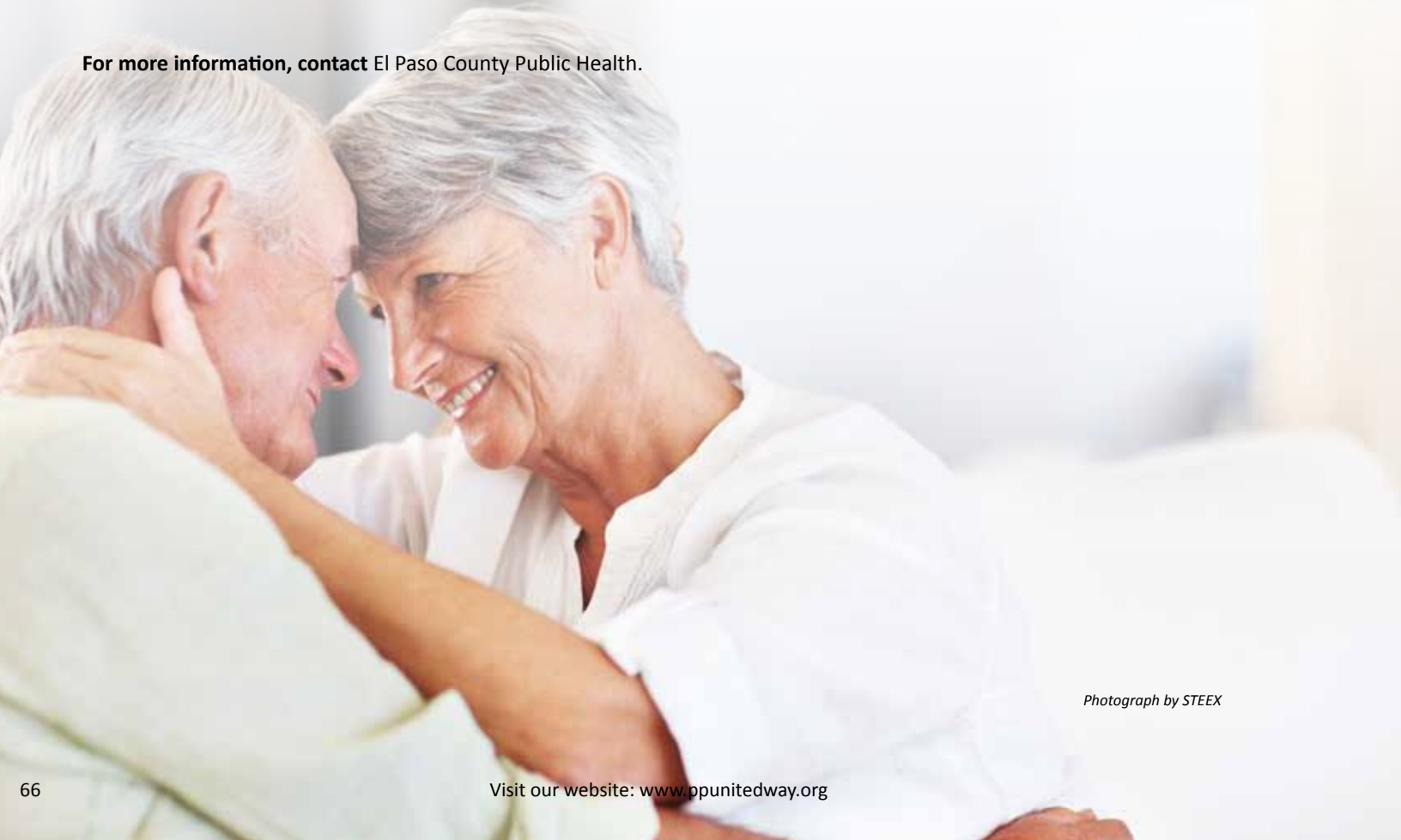
Life expectancy is a way of comparing overall health. Health disparities, or health inequities, are population-specific differences in the presence of disease, health outcomes or access to health care. These inequities can occur by age, gender, race, ethnicity, or geography and tend to be more pronounced among groups that have historically experienced discrimination or exclusion. Determining where and for whom health disparities exist in our community provides a better understanding of how other societal factors, such as level of education, household income, and the location of amenities for healthy living (i.e., parks, trails, grocery stores, public transit) can affect health outcomes for

residents.

### How are we doing?

The chart reveals a significant difference in life expectancy for black males in El Paso County: 5.1 years less on average than their white male neighbors. Life expectancy for females and white males is roughly equal to life expectancy for these groups in the state and nation.

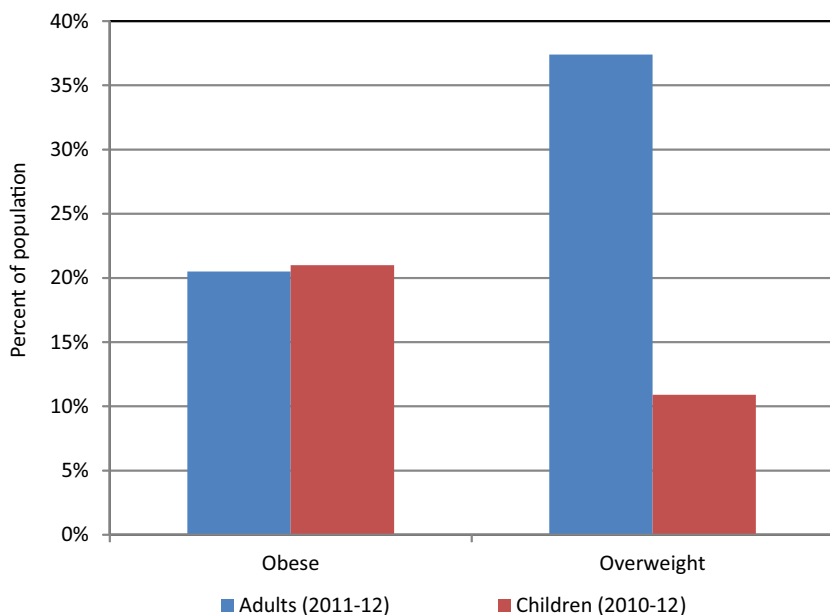
**For more information, contact** El Paso County Public Health.



Photograph by STEEX

## Body Mass Index

### Overweight or Obese Population



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**This chart shows** the percentage of El Paso County residents who are overweight or obese, as measured by the Body Mass Index. BMI is a commonly-used measure of weight and height that is used as a simple measure of whether a person's weight is normal for a given height.

#### Why is this important?

People who are overweight or obese are at risk for poor health outcomes including hypertension, high cholesterol, and non-gestational diabetes. In El Paso County, the number of adults with these conditions has increased substantially in the past decade, paralleling trends in obesity.

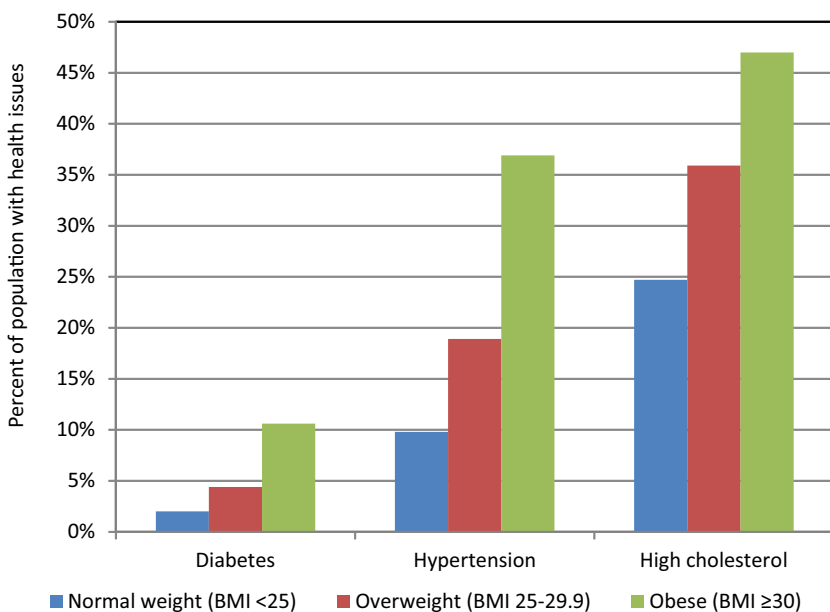
#### How are we doing?

An estimated 37.1 percent of the adult population in El Paso County were overweight and 21.2 percent were obese. The proportion of Colorado adults who are obese has more than doubled in the past 15 years— from 10.1 percent in 1995 to 21.4 percent in 2010—meaning more than one of every five Colorado adults are obese. The percent of El Paso County children of excessive weight is not significantly different than the state average of 25.8 percent (2008 to 2010.)

According to the El Paso County 2012 Health Indicators Report: Between 2003 and 2009, hypertension among adults has risen from 14.7 percent to 19.2 percent, and high cholesterol rose from 25.5 percent to 34.5 percent among those who had their cholesterol levels checked. The prevalence of non-gestational diabetes increased from 3.8 percent among adults in 2003-2004 to 5.4 percent in 2009-2010, representing a 42 percent increase overall.

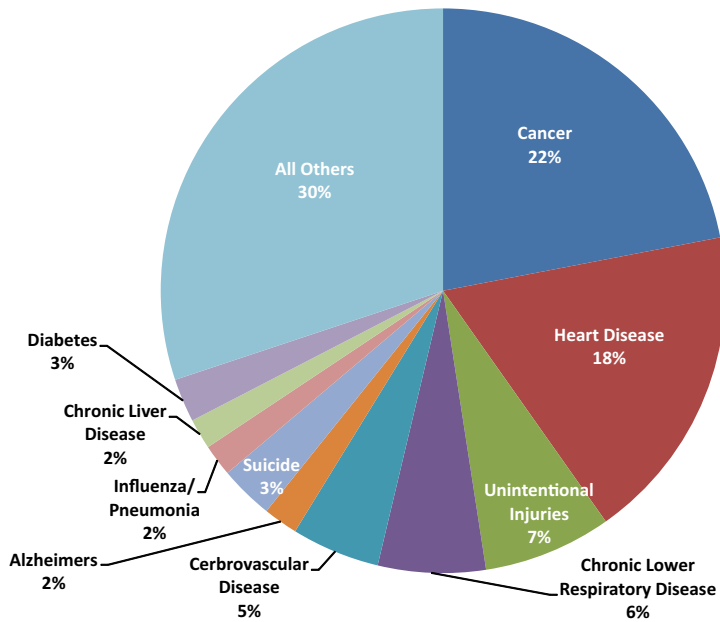
**For more information, contact** Healthy Communities Collaborative, El Paso County Public Health and LiveWell Colorado.

### BMI's Relation to Disease



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, El Paso County 2012 Health Indicators Report

## Causes of Death



Source: Colorado State Departments of Health, 2011 Annual Report

**This chart** shows the causes of deaths in 2011.

### Why is this important?

It's important to examine causes of death to identify those that are preventable, such as those related to mental health or unhealthy lifestyle choice.

### How are we doing?

In our MSA, cancer is slightly higher than comparison data and suicide is statistically higher than other comparable counties. Other leading causes of years of potential life lost include cancer, heart disease and cirrhosis.

### For more information, contact the

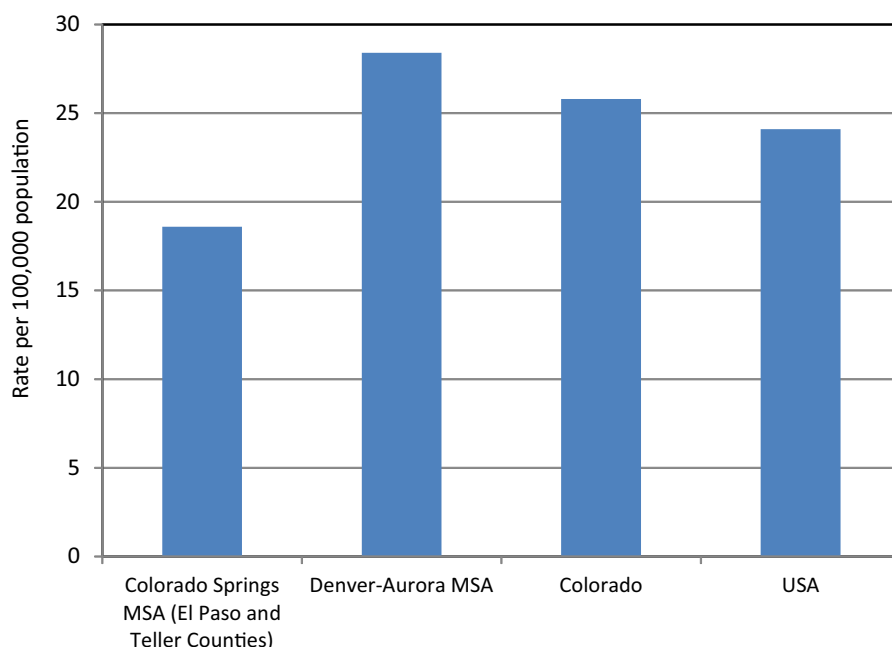
American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, AspenPointe, El Paso County Public Health, and Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention.

Age Group	Top 3 Leading Causes of Death	
Infants < 1 year	1. Congenital malformations/chromosomal abnormalities	4. Complications of pregnancy, labor & delivery
	2. Length of gestation and fetal malnutrition	5. Blood-related disorders
	3. SIDS	
Ages 1 to 14 years	1. Accidents	4. Heart disease
	2. Homicide	5. Congenital malformations/chronosomal abnormalities
	3. Cancer	
Ages 15 to 24 years	1. Accidents	4. Cancer
	2. Suicide	5. Heart disease
	3. Homicide	
Ages 25 to 44 years	1. Accidents	4. Heart disease
	2. Suicide	5. Homicide
	3. Cancer	
Ages 45 to 64 years	1. Cancer	4. Suicide
	2. Heart Disease	5. Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis
	3. Accidents	
Ages 65 and older	1. Cancer	4. Cerebrovascular disease
	2. Heart Disease	5. Alzheimer's disease
	3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	

Source: El Paso County Health Indicators 2012 Report



## Average Mortality Rate with Alzheimer's as an Underlying Cause



Source: CDC Wonder database, CDC National Vital Statistics System and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**The chart** shows a comparison of the Colorado Springs MSA, Denver-Aurora MSA, state and U.S. average mortality rates with Alzheimer's as an underlying cause per 100,000 residents.

### Why is this important?

One in every three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. As our population ages, the area will see more cases of this disease. Over the next 30 years, the Colorado Demography Office projects that the population aged 65 or older in El Paso County will increase from 61,788 to 172,394. This 179 percent increase is more than triple the 58 percent increase in total population. By 2014, an estimated 500 additional memory care/assisted living/independent living units are planned for El Paso County. According to the National Institutes of Health Fact Sheet on Alzheimer's, deaths from

Alzheimer's increased 68 percent between 2000 and 2010, while deaths from other major diseases, including the number one cause of death, heart disease, decreased. The cost of this disease to businesses is estimated at \$36.5 billion.

### How are we doing?

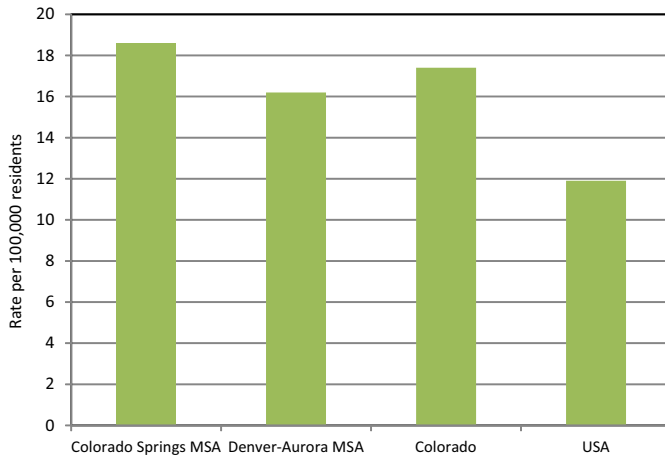
The Colorado Springs MSA's rate is substantially better (18.6 per 100,000) than the Denver-Aurora MSA (28.4), Colorado (25.8), and U.S. (24.1) rates.

**For more information, contact** Colorado Springs Alzheimer's Association, Area Agency on Aging, El Paso County Public Health, Innovations in Aging, Peak View Behavioral Health and UCCS Gerontology Center.



Photograph by Fred Froese

## Suicide Rates



Source: CDC National Vital Statistics System and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

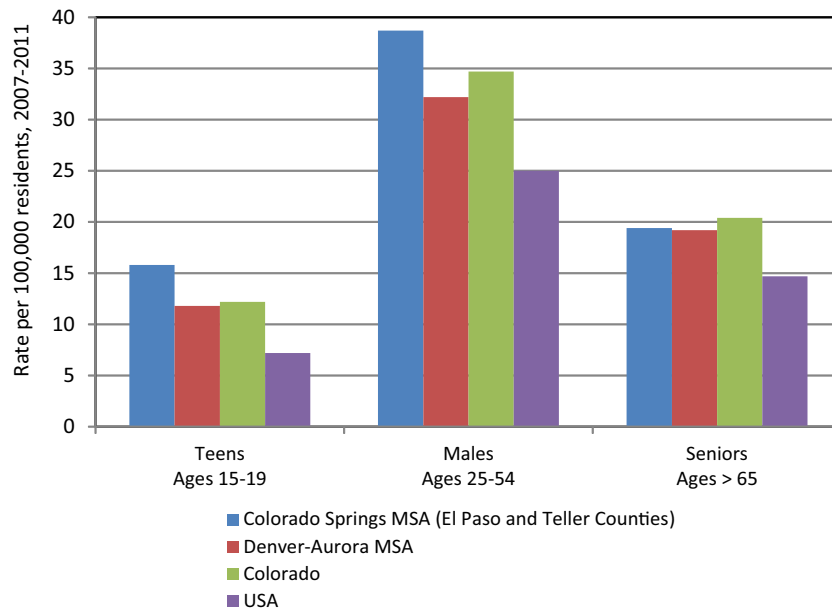
**The first chart** compares the average 2007-2011 suicide rates per 100,000 residents for the Colorado Springs MSA, Denver-Aurora MSA, Colorado and the U.S. Because the Colorado Springs MSA has a relatively small population, and suicide is a relatively infrequent event, it is important to look at suicide rates over several years.

### Why is this important?

The average suicide rate for 2007-2011 for the Colorado Springs MSA is notably higher than for the Denver-Aurora MSA and Colorado, and substantially higher than the U.S. rate (18.6 versus 11.9 per 100,000 residents.)

**The second chart** compares the rate of suicide for specific subgroups at high risk for suicide: teens (ages 15-19), males ages 25-54, and seniors (ages 65 or older.) Only those groups in our local population with notably high suicide rates are illustrated.

## Suicide Among High-Risk Populations



Source: CDC National Vital Statistics System and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

### Why is this important?

There is a compelling need for prevention services for high-risk groups. Every QLI report since 2007 has reported higher Colorado and El Paso County suicide rates for teens and males compared to national figures. The resources for suicide prevention in the Colorado Springs MSA remain inadequate for the number of completed and attempted suicides each year.

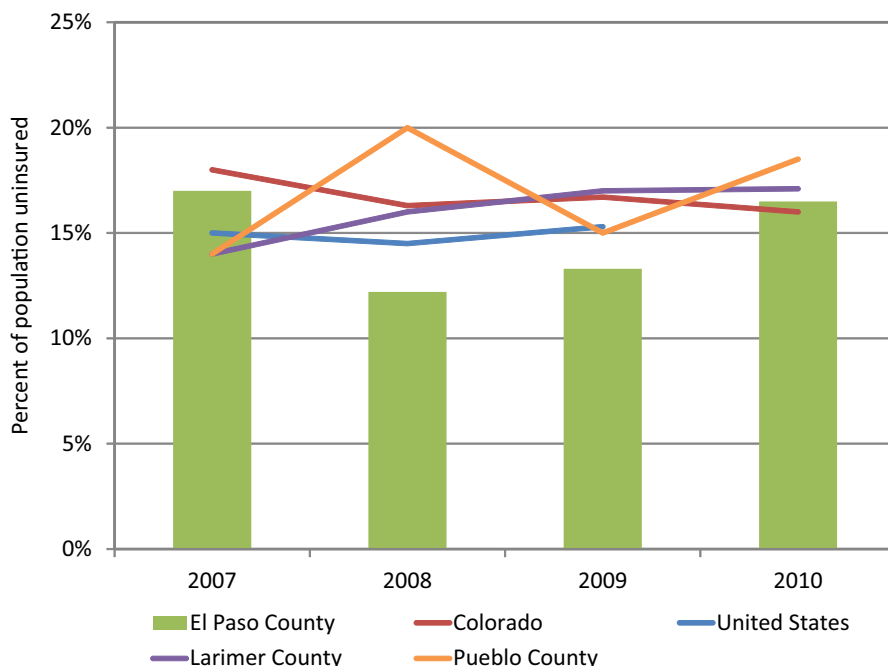
### How are we doing?

Suicide in El Paso and Teller Counties persists as a significant and growing health problem. Suicide is a leading cause of death among adolescents and young adults. Suicide rates for teens and males ages 25-54 in the Colorado Springs MSA were higher than the Denver-Aurora MSA, Colorado and U.S. rates. Seniors are growing as a percentage of our population. An estimated 15,000 seniors in El Paso County have diagnosable psychological conditions, with most not receiving care, according to the Area Agency on Aging.

For individuals aged 65 years and older, suicide rates for the Colorado Springs MSA (19.4 per 100,000), Denver-Aurora MSA (19.2 per 100,000), and Colorado (20.4 per 100,000) are fairly comparable. Only the U.S. rate, at 14.7 per 100,000, is lower. The Colorado Springs MSA offers very few mental health providers with expertise in this population, which is often at higher risk for cognitive impairment, anxiety and depression, or multiple illnesses that interact with mental wellbeing. Few mental health providers accept Medicare, the primary insurer of older adults, so access is often further restricted.

**For more information, contact** AspenPointe and Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention

## Citizens Without Medical Insurance



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

**This chart** shows a comparison of the percentage of citizens in El Paso County, Larimer County, Pueblo County, Colorado and the United States without any kind of health care coverage. The most recent data for 2009-2010 reflect an increase in El Paso County uninsured residents from 13.3 percent to 16.5 percent.

### Why is this important?

Affordable health care coverage and access to timely health care is critical to the health of any community. According to the 2011 Colorado Health Access Survey, research from multiple studies clearly indicates that “people without health insurance are less likely to receive preventive care, are frequently diagnosed when their diseases are more advanced, tend to receive less therapeutic care, and are more likely to die prematurely than individuals with insurance.” In

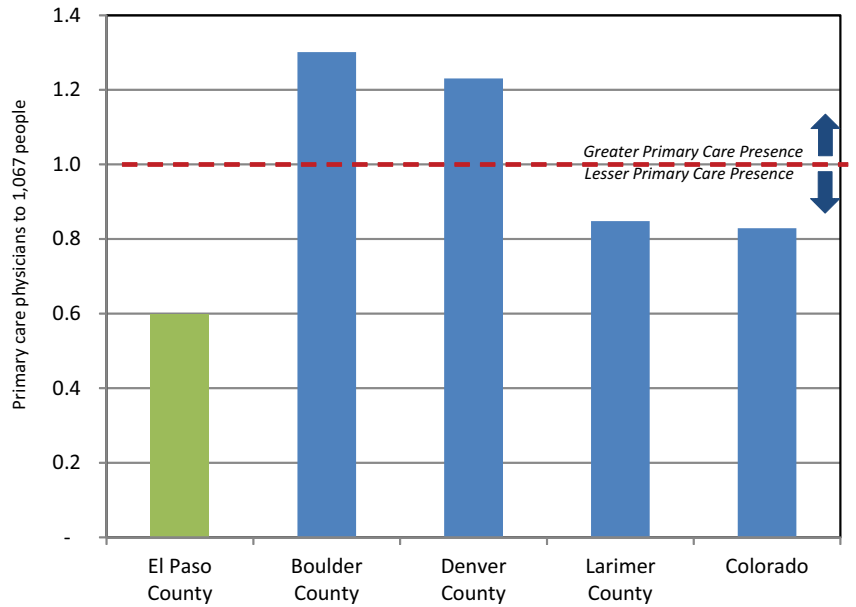
addition, people with no insurance tend to be frequent users of emergency rooms, resulting in uncompensated expenses that are passed on to the insured population.

### How are we doing?

In El Paso County, the percentage of residents without health insurance has increased every year from 2008 (12.2 percent) to 2010 (16.5 percent.) The Affordable Care Act has provisions to make health insurance available to more Americans by increasing the income limits for Medicaid eligibility and by offering health insurance premium subsidies to low-income individuals.

**For more information, contact** Community Health Partnership, Dream Centers of Colorado Springs, Mission Medical Clinic, Open Bible Medical Clinic, Peak Vista Community Health Centers, S.E.T. Family Medical Clinic, or Tri-Lakes Cares Clinic

## Primary Care Providers



Source: 2010 Robert Wood Johnson, County Rankings Study

**This chart** shows the number of primary care providers per 1,067 people in four Colorado counties, as well as statewide.

### Why is this important?

According to the American College of Physicians, primary care is critical in providing better health outcomes at lower costs. Access to primary care supports higher quality of life, increased productivity, and longevity. It also reduces costs as a result of fewer hospitalizations, improved prevention, and better chronic disease management.

### How are we doing?

The Colorado Springs MSA lags behind all the comparison counties and the state in physicians per capita. According to data from the Colorado All Payer Claims Database, El Paso County's number of primary care providers is 25 percent below the state average.

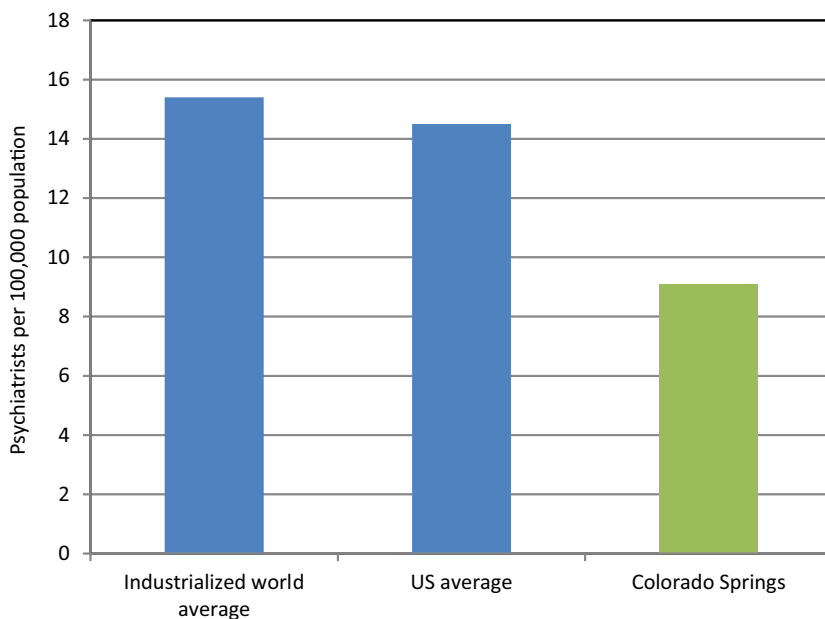
The American Council on Graduate Medical Education recommends that "patient care generalists" comprise 40 percent of total physicians. El Paso County, at about 27 percent, would need a 40 percent increase in primary care physicians to meet that target.



Photograph courtesy of Penrose-St. Francis



## Presence of Psychiatrists Per 100,000 Population



Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care

**This chart** shows the number of psychiatrists per 100,000 population. Industrialized nations average 15.4 psychiatrists per 100,000 population and the U.S. averages 14.5 psychiatrists per 100,000 population. In comparison, Colorado Springs has only 9.1 psychiatrists per 100,000 population.

### Why is this important?

Psychiatrists are vital members of mental health treatment teams. While other mental health care providers such as psychologists, psychotherapists, clinical social workers, counselors and nurse practitioners are critical players in a community's mental health work force, psychiatrists are the only ones extensively trained in the medical aspects of both physical and mental health.

### How are we doing?

Colorado Springs has 37 percent fewer psychiatrists than the U.S. average and nearly 40 percent less than the industrialized world average. The Colorado Springs average ranks below both the industrialized world and U.S. averages.

**For more information, contact** AspenPointe and El Paso County Medical Society.



Photograph by LisaFX Photographic Designs



# Natural Environment

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**KEVIN GILFORD**, Vice Chair  
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**ALICIA ARCHIBALD**  
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**MARY BARBER**  
Sustainable Fort Carson

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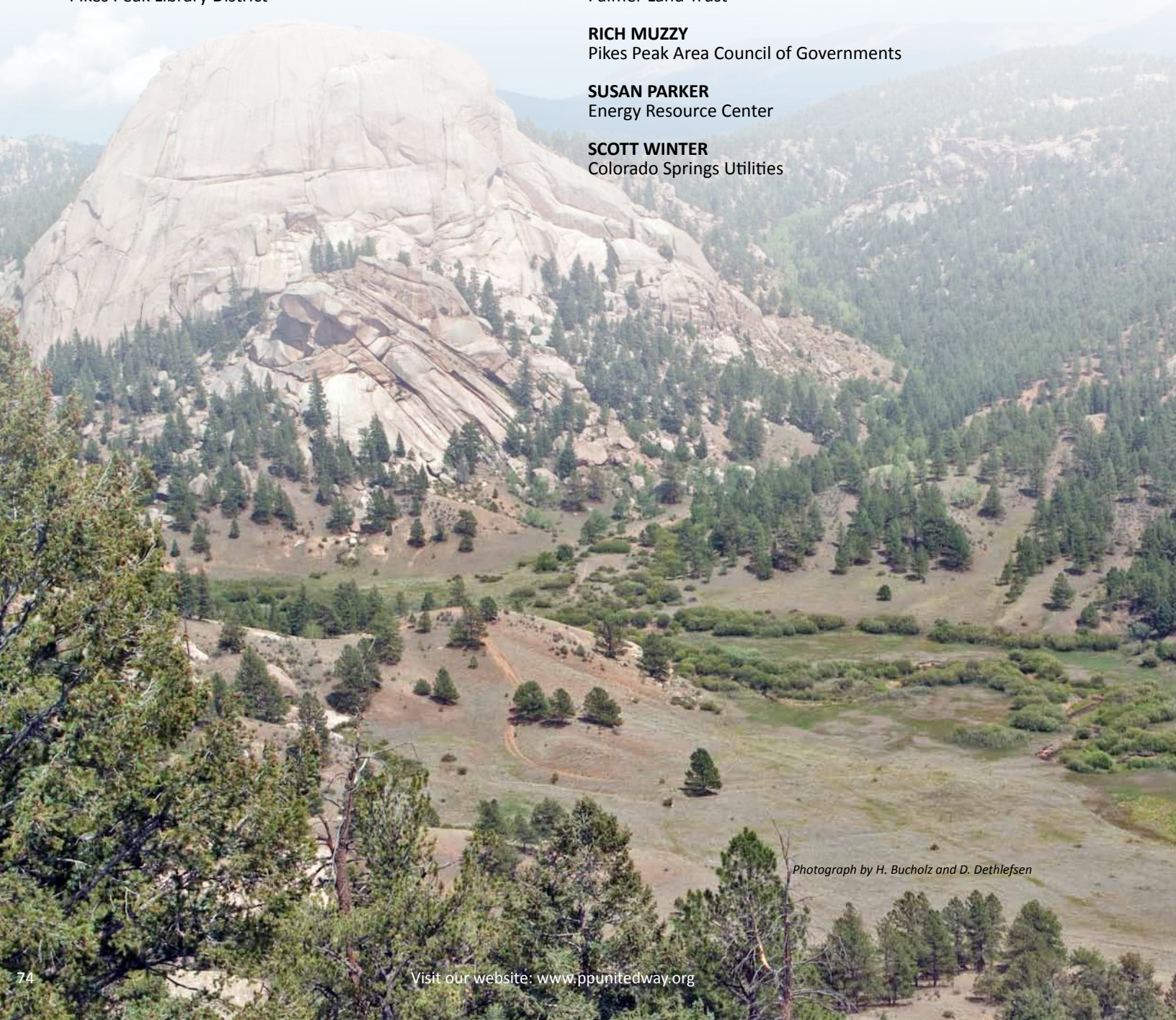
**TILAH LARSON**  
El Paso County Bar Association

**NATHAN MOYER**  
Palmer Land Trust

**RICH MUZZY**  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

**SUSAN PARKER**  
Energy Resource Center

**SCOTT WINTER**  
Colorado Springs Utilities



*Photograph by H. Bucholz and D. Dethlefsen*



The Pikes Peak region's natural environment is a cherished, vital and vulnerable asset that is key to the community's health, economy and vitality, and should be protected and preserved. Our natural environment is also a cherished asset and a source of identity and pride. For many, it's the reason we live here. Our natural environment's health directly affects the plants, animals and other species that depend on it, and that we depend on, to survive. Ultimately, the natural environment impacts our quality of life today and into the future.

The Pikes Peak region has always been a popular destination, from early Native American inhabitants to the founders of the city, and people continue to be attracted to its natural environment and quality of life. If the population of the Colorado Springs MSA continues to grow, demand for natural resources will continue to rise. But growth has direct environmental effects: changes in land use, air quality, water quality and availability, livability, transportation, and waste are some of the concerns that face this community. Addressing environmental issues is complex, and can be expensive, confusing and inspiring all at once. We must be mindful of how we modify and use energy, air, water, and land, and the effects of these uses on the planet and our health, today and into the future. The consequences of inaction can be devastating and disastrous.

2012 was a tumultuous year in Colorado Springs. In June, we experienced a severe hailstorm that resulted in significant property damage and flooding, followed by the catastrophic Waldo Canyon wildfire, which destroyed 347 homes and killed two people. The state and region remains in a third year of serious drought, causing stress and even death for trees, animals, plants and water supplies. The citizens of the Pikes Peak region are appreciating the ferocity of nature and grappling with the long-term consequences of disaster, drought and development.

It's important to celebrate our successes and face our challenges. Through addressing these significant issues, the population is undergoing a transition to different ways of living, including changing perceptions of landscaping, participating in solutions that incorporate more efficient use of energy and water, and taking proactive approaches to living in the arid high desert and mountain terrain. Many of these changes lead the way to a more sustainable future in Colorado.

Many Coloradans are changing landscapes to Xeriscape, installing more efficient fixtures, and using methods that do more with less. The Southwest Energy Efficiency

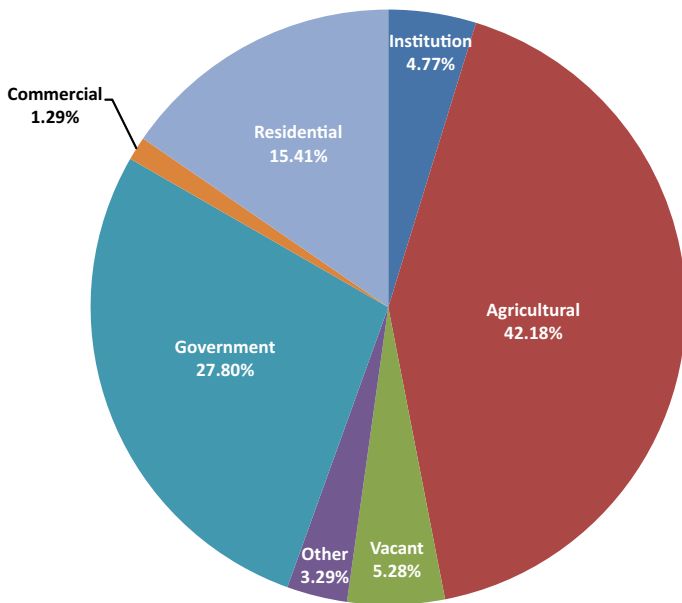
Project projects that a \$14 billion investment in energy efficiency measures could net \$20 billion dollars from implementing energy efficiency. The Energy Efficiency Business Coalition's 2012 State of the State Report indicates the efficiency industry employs 14,000 Coloradoans, generating more than \$1 billion per year in economic impact. As the major four-service utility provider in the region, Colorado Springs Utilities provides data for multiple measures in this section, either directly or to other agencies whose data are used for this report.

Colorado has shown resilience and innovation in dealing with its changing landscape, character, and economies. These are opportunities for reinvestment, reimagining and resourcefulness. Efficiency won't solve all of our problems, but reducing consumption has an immense effect on comfort and performance, provides direct savings to the community, and spurs economic development while making structures more suitable to Colorado's natural environment and protecting future supply.

*Photograph by Jayson Kingsbeer*

# Land Use

## El Paso County Land Use



Source: El Paso County Information Technologies

**These charts** show current land use. In the County Land Uses chart, the “agricultural” category includes farm, grazing and irrigated land. The “government” category includes federal, state, county and local governments. In the City Land Uses chart, the “other” category includes cemeteries, golf courses, right-of-ways and undetermined areas.

### Why is this important?

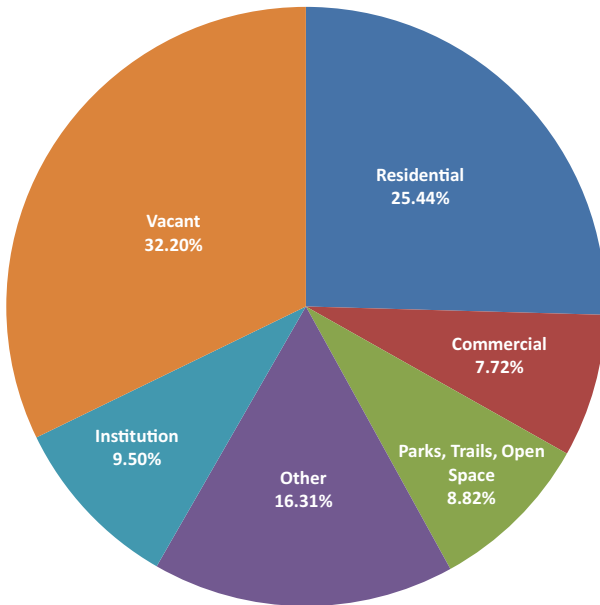
How an area dedicates and develops its land has a significant impact on environmental quality, human health, economic vitality and biodiversity. Failing to preserve natural spaces, especially wildlife corridors, can affect wildlife, hydrology and biodiversity. For example, development can result in increased impervious surfaces, such as rooftops, roads and parking lots, and decreased habitat, tree canopy and open space. These changes reduce the amount of water that infiltrates through the ground and increases run-off into the creeks through stormwater. Such changes in land use inevitably exact positive and negative impacts on the environment. Balance is key.

Land use in the Pikes Peak region remains an important determinant of the nature and scope of environmental pressures. Tracking land use changes can aide in determining areas of high conservation value, regulating flood mitigation and other natural hazards, as well as maintaining air and water quality. Land use and the natural environment’s health remain inextricably linked; knowledge of changes in land use assists in formulating solutions for sustaining resources and safeguarding the natural environment.

### How are we doing?

The City and El Paso County have open space plans to promote effective land use and preservation. Recent economic turmoil disrupted classic suburban development patterns, and especially

## City of Colorado Springs Land Use



Source: City of Colorado Springs

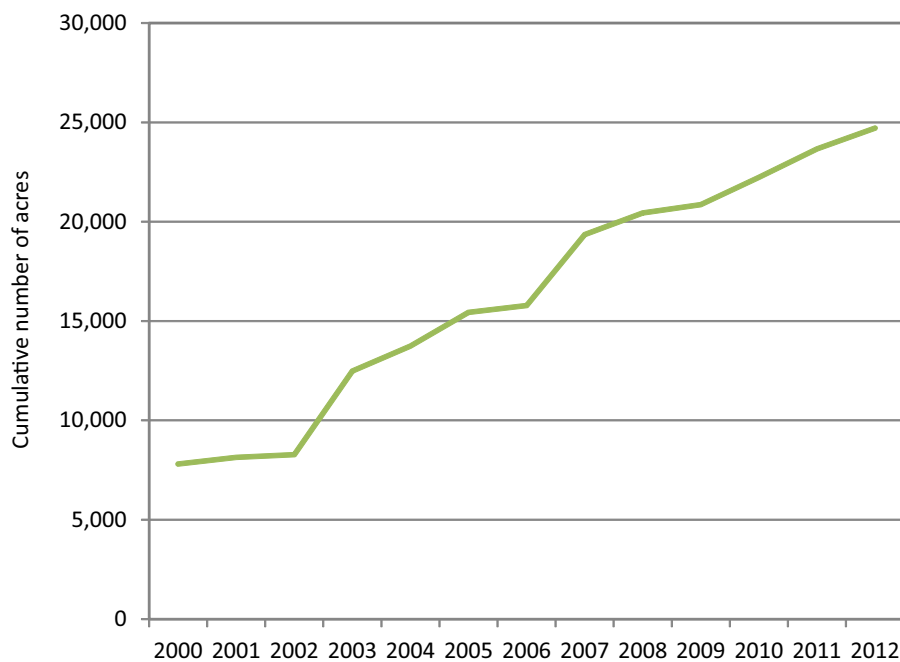
affected Banning-Lewis Ranch. This 18,000-acre parcel bordering eastern Colorado Springs underwent ownership and use changes, moving some areas from residential to industrial to accommodate the potential for natural gas development through hydraulic fracturing. This transition had a dramatic effect on El Paso County, initiating much public input and involvement regarding proper use, protection, and potential income from changing economic models of land development.



**For more information** on land use, see pages 23, 24 and 96.



# Land Protection



Source: Palmer Land Trust

**This chart** shows the cumulative acreage of private and public conservation easements in El Paso and Teller Counties. Conservation easements are legal tools landowners use to preserve their land in perpetuity and restrict development. Some lands are used for agriculture and ranching, while some are open space.

### Why is this important?

Open spaces in and around the Colorado Springs MSA serve multiple purposes. They are amenities for human recreation and enjoyment, habitat for native plants and animals, and possible sources of energy production. They also serve as protective watersheds, economic drivers for events and tourism, and provide a sense of place and identity.

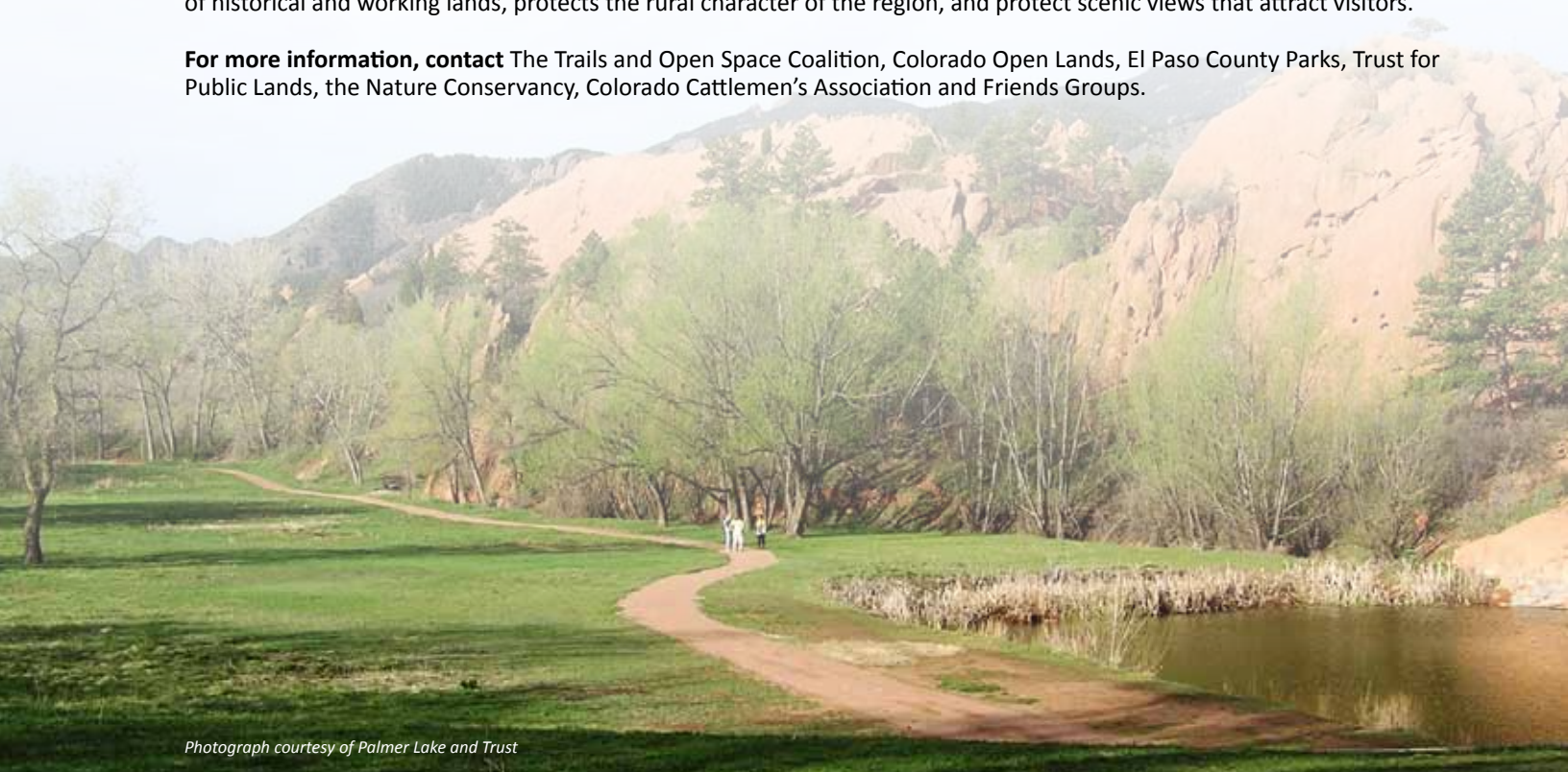
Similarly, private landowners are pursuing the preservation of their

lands for many reasons and through many means. For example, ranchers and farmers are placing conservation easements on their lands to ensure that those lands remain open for agricultural purposes and the lifestyles of ranching and food production rather than face the potential of development. These easements also preserve scenic corridors that support tourism, protect critical wild and historical areas and provide income to our rural areas, while maintaining the distinctive character for which Colorado is known and visited.

### How are we doing?

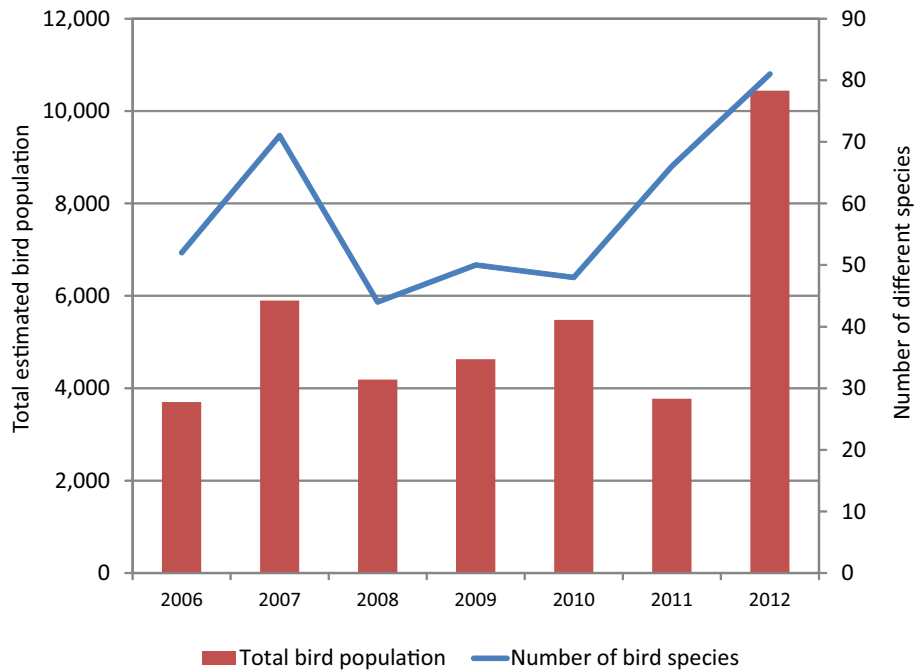
Acres of preserved land have steadily increased since 2000. Of particular note is the completion of the Pikes Peak Conservation Corridor by Palmer Land Trust. This contiguous set of properties in Teller County provides an unimpeded view of historical and working lands, protects the rural character of the region, and protect scenic views that attract visitors.

**For more information, contact** The Trails and Open Space Coalition, Colorado Open Lands, El Paso County Parks, Trust for Public Lands, the Nature Conservancy, Colorado Cattlemen's Association and Friends Groups.



Photograph courtesy of Palmer Lake and Trust

## Bird Counts



Source: Great Backyard Bird Count

**This chart** shows the total number of birds and species counted by volunteers during the Backyard Bird Count. The annual four-day count is considered an industry benchmark.

**Why is this important?**

Assessing the number of birds provides us with baseline data on how well birds, one important wildlife group, are doing. Birds are one of the strongest indicator species and are acutely affected by environmental changes, reflecting potential threats and issues important to human health.

**How are we doing?**

Colorado Springs hosts many birds, some as permanent residents and some that stop to refuel or breed during migration. The birds present in the annual count represent a broad range of species, from small insect and seed-eating songbirds to raptors.

The 2012 count indicates an increase in species and a marked rise in total bird population. These changes are influenced by a variety of factors: a mild winter allowed some birds to reside here year round, and others traveled earlier than normal due to warmer winter patterns.

**For more information, contact** Catamount Institute, Rocky Mountain Field Institute, National Audubon Society, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Western Bird Banding Association.

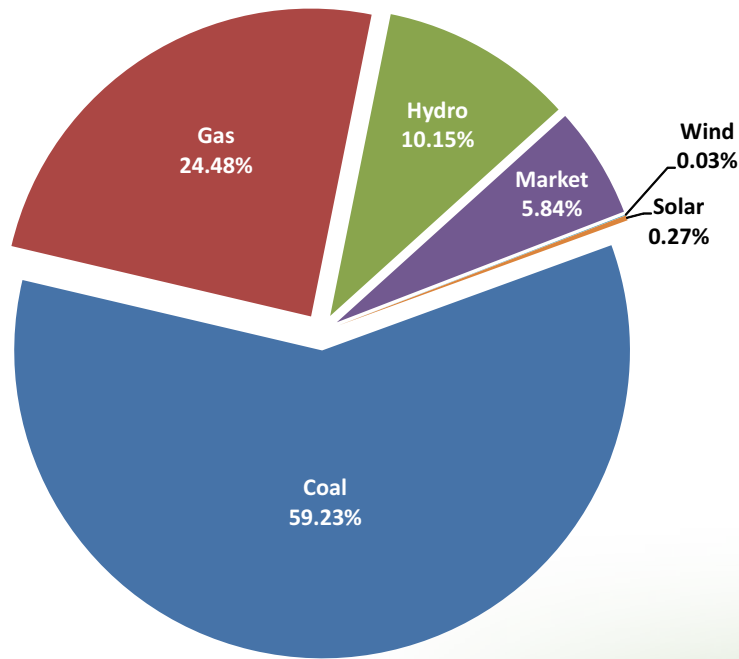


Photograph by Loni Holman



Photograph by Odan Jaeger

# Energy Sources



Source: Colorado Springs Utilities

**These charts show** 2012 Colorado Springs Utilities electricity generation by fuel type and the change in renewable energy percentage over time.

### Why is this important?

A diverse energy mix helps utility companies stabilize prices charged to customers – if utility companies are heavily dependent on one energy source, they are more vulnerable to market and regulatory changes.

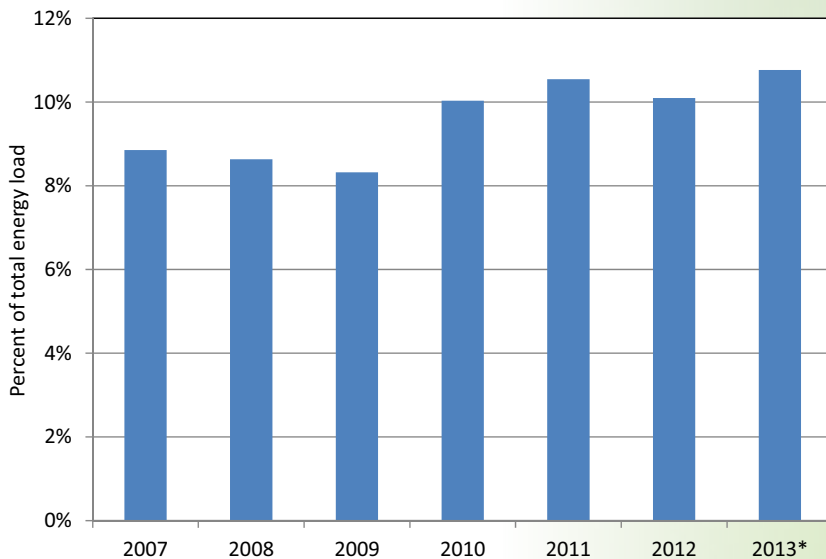
### How are we doing?

Coal and natural gas account for the majority of our electric supply. While we are still heavily dependent on fossil fuels, more than 10 percent of our electricity comes from renewable sources. In 2009, the Air Force Academy completed a solar array and numerous solar gardens – community solar panels shared by subscribers as if they

were their own – have been created or are underway in the region.

**For more information, contact** the Energy Efficient Business Coalition, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, Green Cities Coalition, Sierra Club, Colorado Springs Utilities.

# Renewable Energy



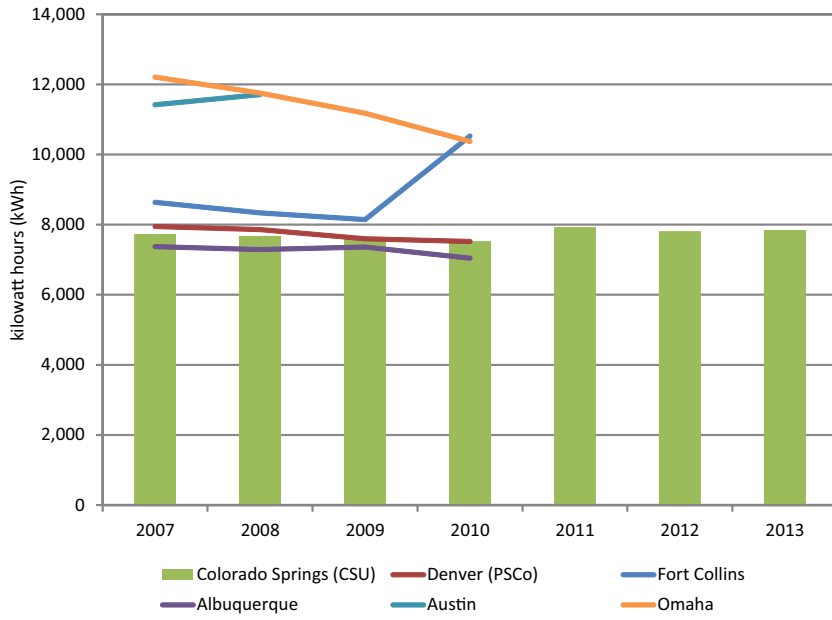
\*2013 data is for January - July

Source: Colorado Springs Utilities



Photograph courtesy of Shutterstock.com

# Electricity Use

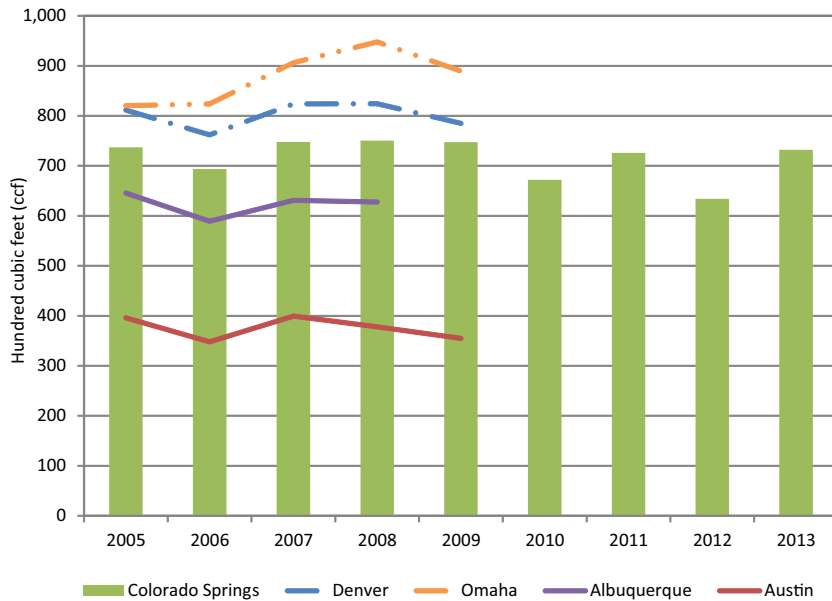


**These charts** show the kilowatt hours of electricity and the cubic feet of natural gas burned per household by the residential customers of Colorado Springs Utilities and comparison cities as data was available.

### Why is this important?

Looking at energy consumption over time shows the trends in energy use. By reducing our energy usage per capita, supplies go further, which prevents us from having to purchase or create additional resources. New technologies can often meet our needs using much less natural resource. Great progress has been made in lighting and heating technology, and is often reduced through more water efficient devices, such as showerheads, dishwashers and washing machines. Environmental Protection Agency EnergyStar and WaterSense have led the industries in making appliances and fixtures that work well and consume less.

# Natural Gas Use



### How are we doing?

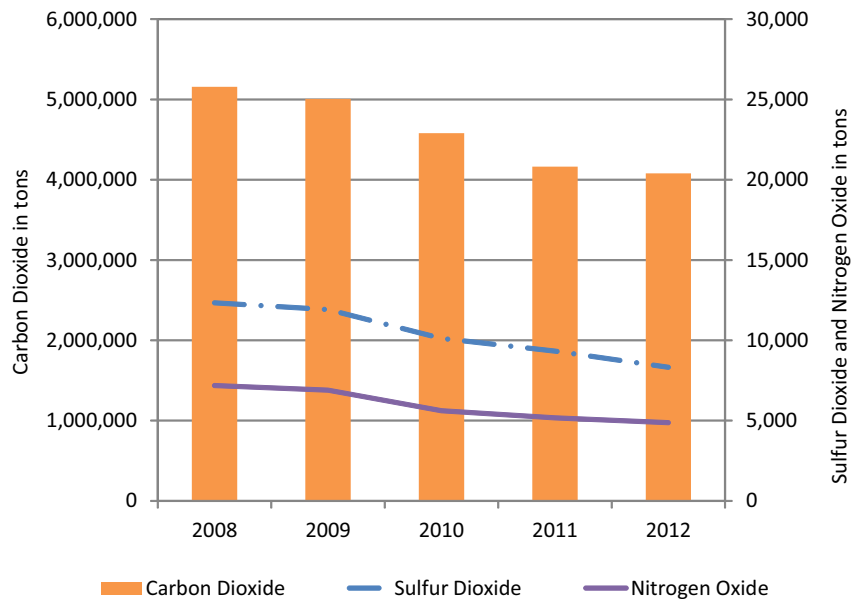
Colorado Springs Utilities consumers have been fairly consistent in their energy usage. This trend is reflected in the comparison cities. Recent economic changes may have contributed to reduced demand. It is important to note that the climate of a region can affect the type of energy used. In colder areas, more natural gas is used to provide heating, while in warmer areas more electricity is used for cooling and air conditioning. In the last 10 years, energy usage per consumer has been about the same, though as demands increase, efficiency measures have offset much of that growth. Efficiency is often the least expensive form of supply, and technology and behavior combine to maximize use of existing resources.

Source for both charts: U.S. Department of Energy Information Administration



# Air Quality - Emissions

## Carbon Dioxide, Sulfur Dioxide and Nitrogen Oxide Emissions



Source: EPA Clean Markets Database

**The first chart** shows tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emitted from Colorado Springs Utilities electricity generation. Colorado Springs Utilities serves a significant percent of the MSA's electric needs. Other sources of CO<sub>2</sub>, aside from power generation, include transportation, industrial, and residential.

**The second chart** shows mercury (Hg) emissions from landfills and power plant exhaust stacks.

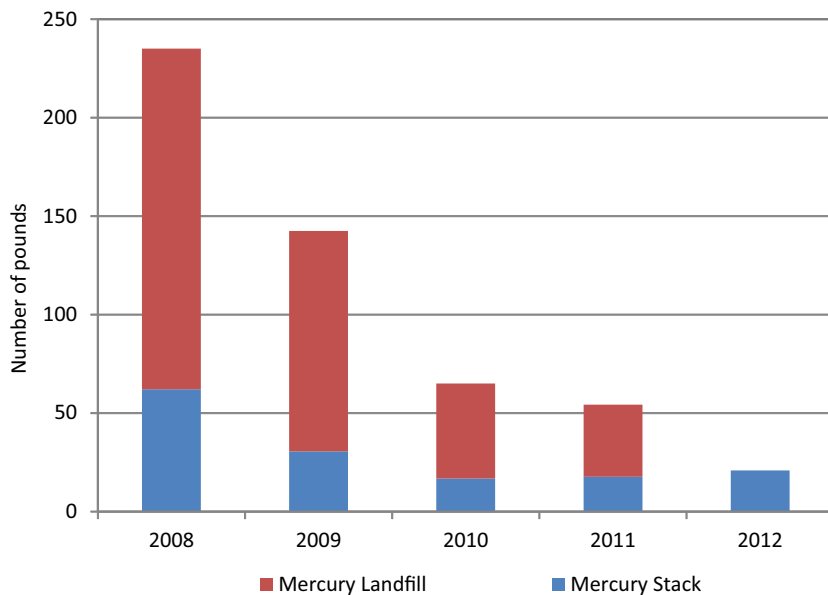
### Why is this important?

CO<sub>2</sub> is a principal greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. SO<sub>2</sub> and NOx emissions can aggravate respiratory tracts, impair pulmonary function and increase risk of asthma attacks. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide are the major precursors to acid rain, which is associated with the acidification of soils, lakes and streams. Mercury acts as a neurotoxin, interfering with the brain and nervous system, and can accumulate in food systems. Mercury can harm children's developing brains. Mercury and many of the other toxic pollutants also damage the environment and pollute lakes and streams.

### How are we doing?

Concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and NOx from Springs Utilities generation decreased from 2008 to 2012. Between 2006 and 2012, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions decreased 24 percent, SO<sub>2</sub> emissions decreased 48 percent and NOx emissions decreased by 36 percent. Use of low-sulfur coal has helped reduce SO<sub>2</sub> and NOx, and increased use of natural gas has reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Mercury reductions are also a result of low-sulfur coal and increased natural gas. Air and landfill emissions have also shown a decreasing trend since 2008.

## Mercury Landfill and Emissions

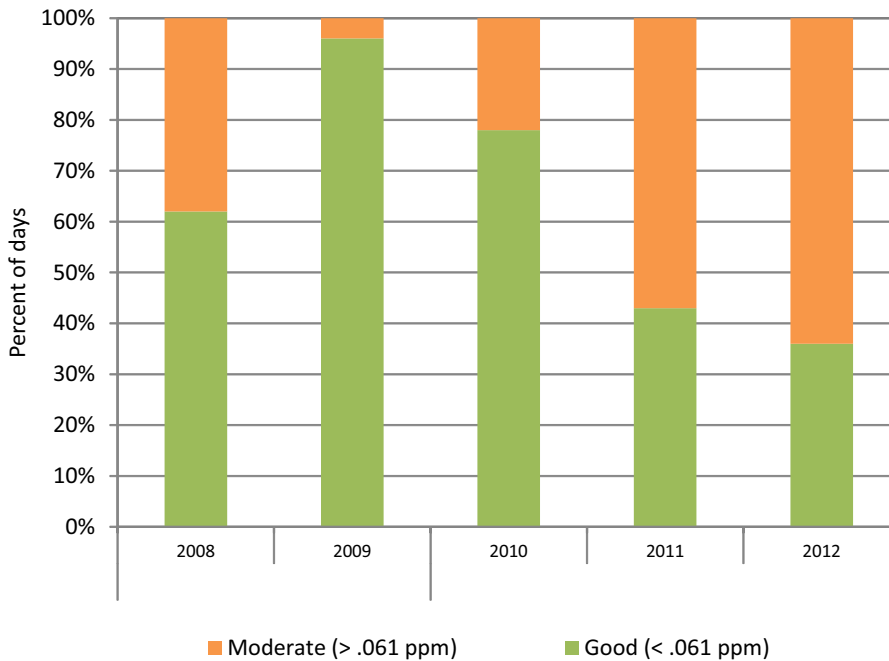


Source: EPA Toxics Release Inventory Program

In 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency finalized standards to reduce mercury and other toxic air pollution from coal and oil-fired power plants. Emissions testing performed indicate that Colorado Springs Utilities is in compliance with the limits. While the region no longer has NOx monitoring stations, 2007 results indicate that the region is less than 25 percent of the standard. An SO<sub>2</sub> monitoring station indicates that the region is also below the SO<sub>2</sub> standard.

# Air Quality - Ozone

## Ozone Concentration Classifications



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment - Air Pollution Control Division

**This chart** shows ozone concentration based on the Environmental Protection Agency's air quality index. Ozone is O<sub>3</sub>, considered a pollutant. Sources include vegetation, motor vehicles, gasoline vapors, power plants, chemical plants, refineries, factories, consumer and commercial products. The graph reflects only the ozone concentrations measured during ozone season, June 1 through August 31. Ozone concentrations are typically highest in summer.

**Why is this important?** Air quality monitoring is conducted at the Air Force Academy and in Manitou Springs to determine the region's compliance with state and federal air quality standards. These standards are designed to protect public health and welfare by determining the specific concentration levels of a pollutant

allowed in the air.

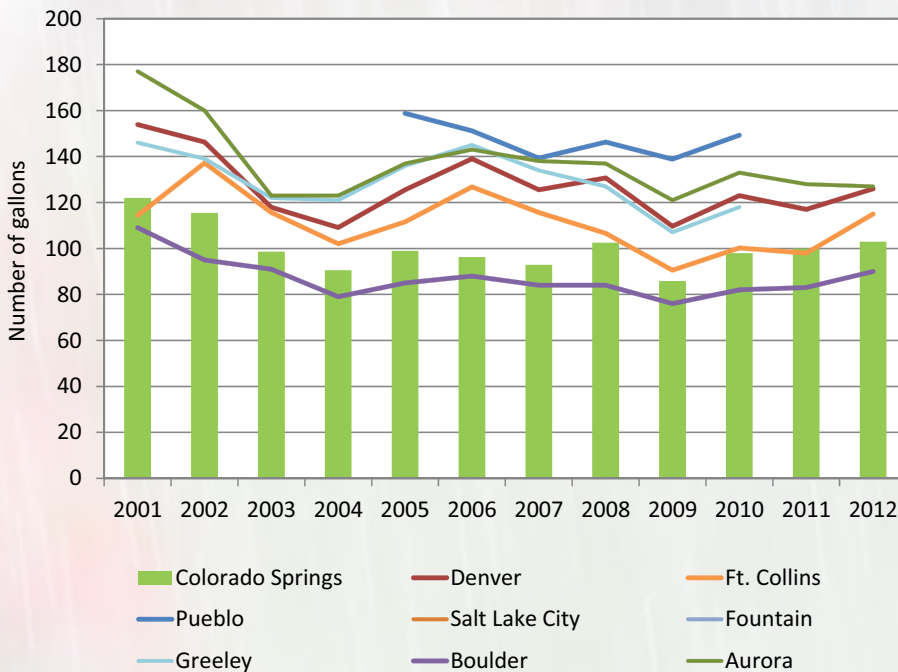
High concentrations of ozone can make people more susceptible to respiratory infection, result in lung inflammation, and aggravate pre-existing respiratory diseases, such as asthma. Other health effects include a decrease in lung function and an increase in respiratory conditions such as chest pain and coughs.

### How are we doing?

Although this chart shows that ozone concentrations during the summer are getting higher on average, the region remains in compliance with the primary and secondary EPA standards set for ozone. From 2009 - 2012, ozone concentrations have been higher on average, although the number of days above the standard has not changed. From 2009, moderate ozone concentration days have increased from 4 percent to 64 percent and the number of "good" days has decreased from 96 percent to 36 percent. This trend shows that ozone is becoming a more problematic pollutant. El Paso County is the only county along the central and northern Front Range that remains in compliance with the 0.075 parts per million ozone standard.

**For more information, contact** Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, El Paso County Department of Health and Environment

# Household Water Use



Source: Colorado Springs Utilities

**This chart** shows daily residential water consumption per capita from 2001 through 2012 in Colorado Springs and comparison communities as data was available. Water use per capita per day is a common measure of changing water demands, but it may be misleading when comparing communities and evaluating conservation and efficiency. Weather, demographics, economics and water pricing affect municipal water demands

### Why is this important?

The Colorado Springs MSA's semi-arid climate intensifies the need for efficient water use, particularly given the uncertainties of water supply, drought, climate change, consumer landscape preferences and population growth.

### How are we doing?

Since 2001, Colorado Springs

and each of the comparison communities have reduced water use. Recent droughts have reduced statewide supply and increased demands, increasing the importance of water conservation and leading many municipalities to implement restrictions.

**For more information, contact** Colorado WaterWise Council, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense, Colorado Springs Utilities, Front Range Utility Council



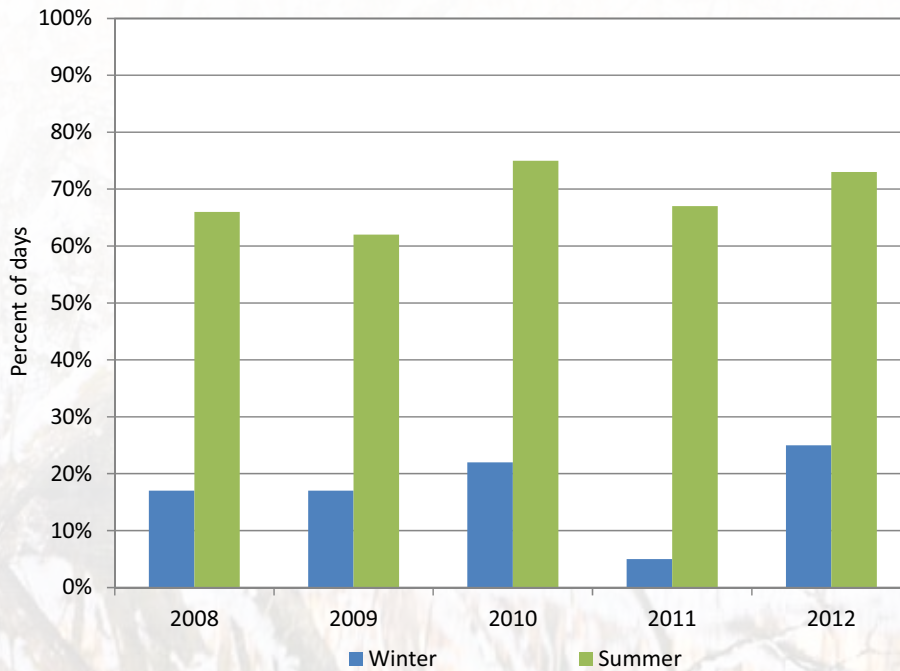
Photographs courtesy of Shutterstock.com



# Water Quality

## E. Coli Concentrations Exceeding EPA Standards

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Source: United States Geological Survey Monitoring Stations

**This chart** shows the percentage of time that E. coli (Escherichia coli) bacteria levels have exceeded Environmental Protection Agency standards in Fountain and Monument Creeks and tributaries during winter (November through April) and summer (May through October.) Sources of bacteria include sewage, urban storm runoff, wildlife, livestock, and runoff from farms, ranches, and open areas.

### Why is this important?

Water quality is important to human health and to the natural environment. It is affected by the activities of people, wild and domestic animals, and natural causes. E. coli affects human health in high concentrations and concentration measurements are used to determine whether or not water is safe for recreation.

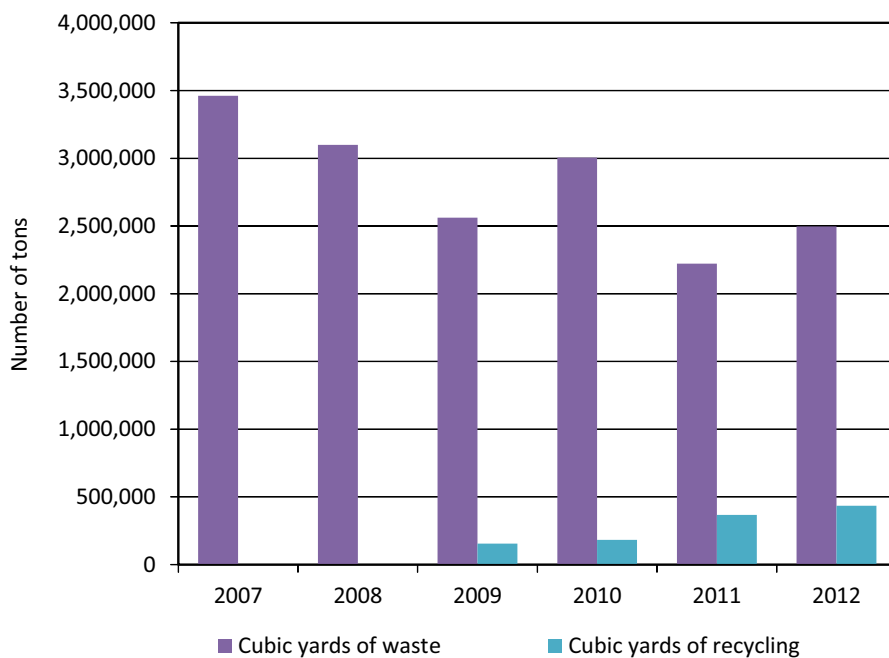
### How are we doing?

In summer, E. coli concentrations exceed EPA standards more than 70 percent of the time. Bacteria levels in streams appear to be directly related to flows and water temperature. When flows are high, such as after a summer storm, higher bacteria levels are found in Fountain Creek. High E. coli concentrations have caused all of Fountain Creek, from its source to where it flows into the Arkansas River in Pueblo to be listed by Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments as a Waterway in Peril, along with all tributaries to Fountain Creek which are not on National Forest Land and Monument Creek from National Forest to Fountain Creek. Studies still need to be conducted to determine the source of the contamination.

**For more information, contact** Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District



# Waste and Recycling



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**This chart** shows the cubic yards of waste deposited annually into El Paso County’s three local landfills and of recyclable materials collected per year.

### Why is this important?

The items we dispose of were made by extracting resources from the environment. Packaging materials are made from metals mined from the ground, plastics are manufactured from petroleum, and paper and cardboard are derived from trees. When these materials enter a landfill, many of them never decompose and those that do take many years. Some byproducts of decomposition are harmful to humans and animals and can persist for many years. Many of these items can be recycled or composted, allowing resource reuse and maximum value of the resource. Reducing, reusing and recycling waste supports the earth,

the environment, and can often be less expensive than using raw materials. Recycling also creates jobs through collection, processing and remanufacturing to new uses.

### How are we doing?

Since 2007, cubic yards of waste have decreased and cubic yards of recyclables collected have increased. A number of new options for diverting waste are now available in the Colorado Springs MSA:

- Since 2008, all four major trash haulers have implemented single-stream recycling collection, available to the majority of El Paso County.
- El Paso County now has its first materials recovery facility, a recycling processing facility that separates materials and readies them for reuse. A local MRF makes recycling cheaper.
- The City of Colorado Springs launched a ‘Greener Corners’ campaign in April 2011, providing single-stream recycling in downtown.
- Industrial composting is now available in El Paso County.
- Colorado Springs Utilities, El Paso County, the City of Colorado Springs, the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority and Olson Plumbing launched porcelain recycling in 2012, collecting more than 3,000 toilets, or 75 tons of waste porcelain, for reuse as road base. The project won a 2012 Colorado Association for Recycling Award for Outstanding Government/Non-Profit Diversion Program.

**For more information, contact** El Paso County Environmental Division, Recycling Coalition of Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak Regional Council of Governments, the 2013 Pikes Peak Regional Sustainability Plan, Colorado Association for Recycling, City of Colorado Springs.

Image courtesy of Shutterstock.com

# Recreation

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Trails and Open Space Coalition

**RACHEL BECK**, Convener  
Rachel Beck and Associates

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Sports Corp.

**JOANNA NELSON**  
Pikes Peak Library District

**STORI PETERSON**  
Sports Corp.

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United States Olympic Committee

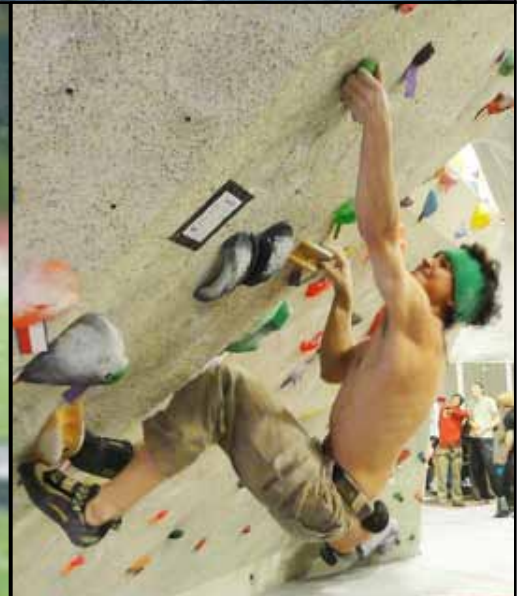
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El Pomar Foundation

**CARMEN BOLES**  
Community member

**KIM KING**  
Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

**TODD MARTS**  
El Paso County Parks

**AUGIE MENDOZA**  
Pikes Peak YMCA



*All photographs courtesy of the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services*

The Colorado Springs MSA's diverse recreational opportunities are one reason many people choose to call the area home. Recreation contributes to quality of life by maintaining mental and physical health, boosting the economy and providing opportunities for socializing. The area's temperate climate, high number of sunny days per year and abundant parkland result in ample opportunities for outdoor recreation. Residents' enthusiasm for sports and the presence of the United States Olympic Committee and Training Center contribute to an active amateur sports scene.

The Pikes Peak region is known for outdoor recreation, such as hiking, bicycling, camping and fishing. Area recreational facilities and programs continually evolve to meet citizens' changing interests in sports, land use patterns and an aging population. For example, golf participation has dropped, while the popularity of disc golf, virtually unknown a few decades ago, has soared. Other examples include the Cheyenne Mountain Shooting Complex, which is the largest outdoor shooting range in the State of Colorado in El Paso County, and the Cheyenne Mountain State Park 3-D Archery Range.

But as residential development has stretched north and east, local government has struggled to keep up with demand for facilities.

Colorado enjoys one of the nation's lowest levels of overweight and obese populations, thanks largely to healthy, active lifestyles. Colorado Springs has an obesity rate of 21.2 percent of the population, compared to the national average of 33.4 percent.

The city received a number of awards, among them:

- No. 1 - Outside Magazine, "Best Town"
- No. 2 - Men's Fitness, "Fittest City in America"
- No. 2 - Women's Health, "The Best Places to Live for Women"
- No. 3 - Hellawella, "Fitness-Focused Cities"
- No. 3 - Men's Fitness, "Top Sports Town"
- No. 7 - Backpacker Magazine, "Best Places to Raise an Outdoor Kid"
- No. 8 - Sunset Magazine, "Fittest City in the West"
- No. 10 - GALLUP - 2012 Least Obese Metro Area
- No. 12 - Cooking Light Magazine, "America's Healthiest Cities"
- No. 18 - Bicycling Magazine, "America's Top 50 Bike-Friendly Cities"

The city was also awarded silver level recognition by the League of American Bicyclists as a bicycle-friendly community. Criteria include physical infrastructure to support biking, education programs, enforcement of cycling laws, and evaluation of biking programs.

Colorado Springs is one of the few communities in the United States to tax the purchase of a bicycle. All proceeds are reinvested in bicycle-related activities and infrastructure benefitting the cycling community. Bicycling is now allowed to the top of Pikes Peak most days of the year. A 24-hour bicycle race is again planned for Palmer Park, drawing participants from around the country. The Sand Creek Bicycle Racing Series has seen

steady participation levels.

Colorado Springs played host to the Warrior Games, created in 2010 by the United States Olympic Committee and Colorado Springs Sports Corp. The seven-sport annual competition began in partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs as an introduction to Paralympic sports, and to assist in the rehabilitation process for injured service members and veterans.

Funding maintenance of existing facilities, particularly during persistent drought, is an ongoing challenge. In 2013, voters approved a change to the Trails, Open Space and Parks tax, a dedicated sales tax for land acquisition and park maintenance, to allow more revenue to be used for maintenance. The very existence of such a tax in a community known for fiscal conservatism shows the importance residents place on these facilities. Voters also renewed capital funding for the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority, which includes \$9-14 million for bicycle transportation and trail projects through 2024.

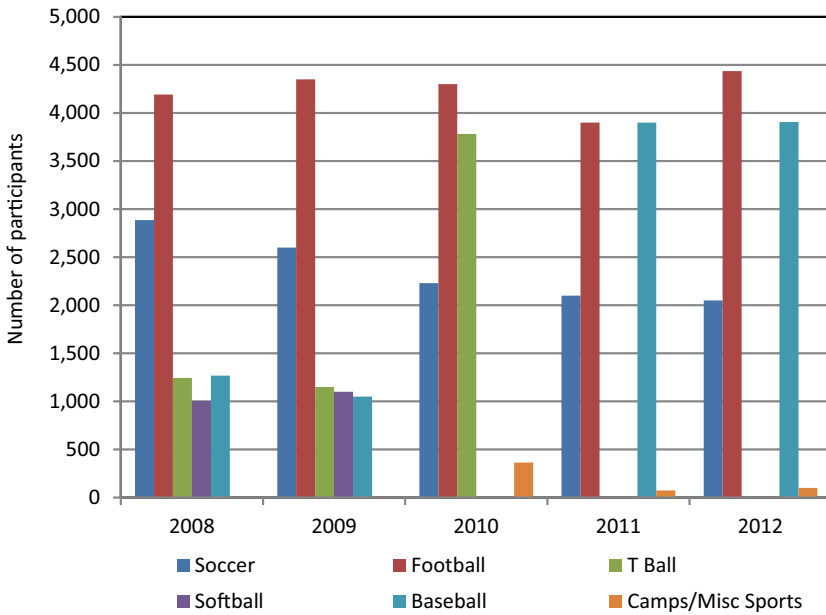
Recreation is a significant contributor to the Pikes Peak area economy. Large employers, sales of recreational gear and permit fees, and tourist spending all are significant economic drivers. Special events like 2012's Pro Cycling Challenge contributed to an increase in city sales tax collections of 9.7 percent in August, when the event took place. As the region's population grows, expectations for safe, well-maintained public spaces for recreation are likely to increase.

While we know that the Colorado Springs MSA is an active one, researchers for the Recreation group found that much of the region's activities are not measured. For example, hiking and biking participation are just beginning to be tracked. Preliminary data indicates on any weekend day, over 1,000 people use the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail. Upcoming regional bicycle and pedestrian master plans may result in some participation counts. The graphs on the following pages offer snapshots of data that is available about aspects of the area's recreational scene.



# Parks and Recreation Sports

## Youth Sports



Source: City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

**These charts** show participation in City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department sports programs. Specific offerings for youth include football, baseball/softball, soccer, volleyball and judo. Adult sports include softball, flag football, volleyball and basketball. A total of 114 municipal fields are dedicated to baseball, softball and soccer programs.

### Why is this important?

Organized sports are a primary way local residents are physically active.

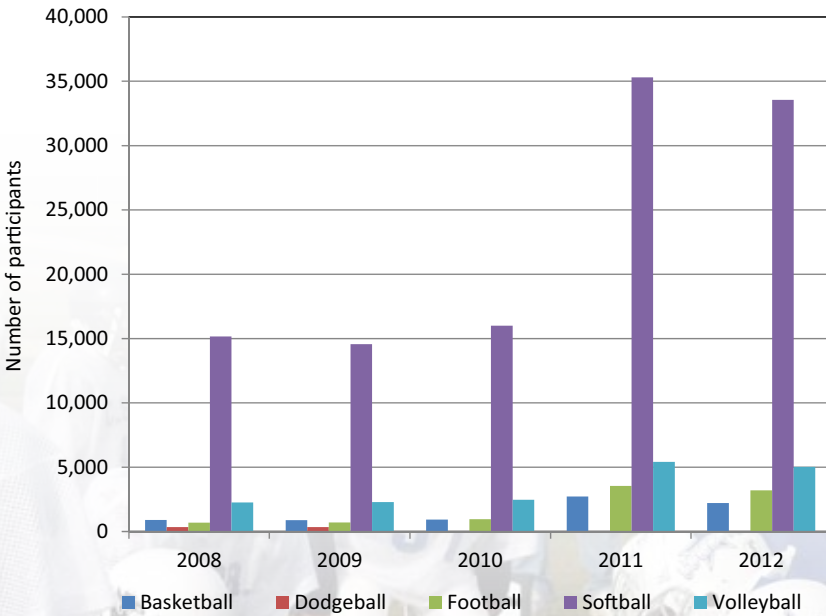
### How are we doing?

While youth sports participation remains relatively consistent as programming and demand has remained stable, the adult sports participant numbers increased substantially with additional softball seasons added during the summer months beginning in 2009.

Along with programming, facility availability is critical to meet the needs and demands of various users. As the need to provide sustainable and environmentally friendly facilities persists, an effort is underway to increase the number of artificial turf fields within the community.

**For more information, contact** City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.

## Youth Sports

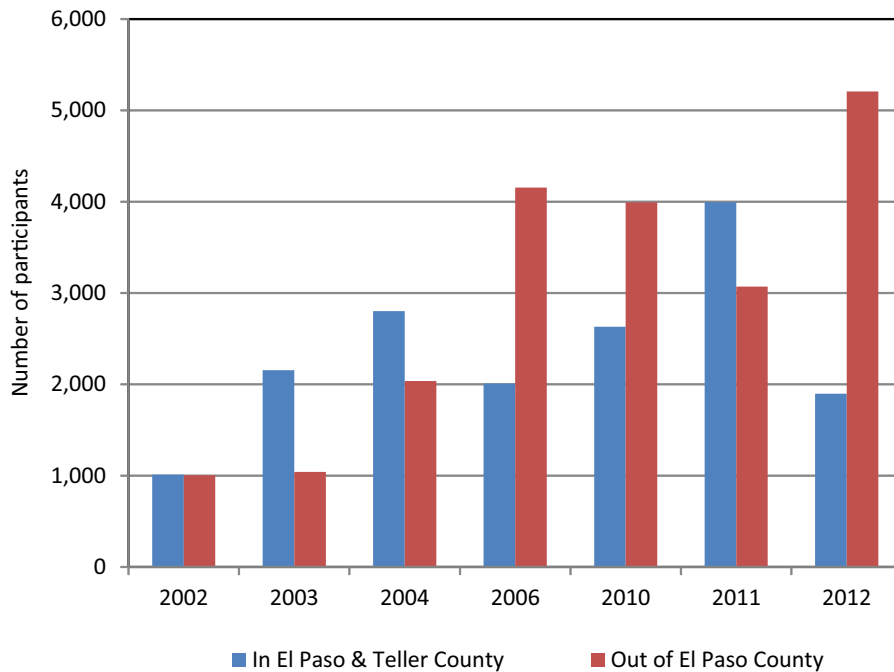


Source: City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Photograph courtesy of the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services



# Rocky Mountain State Games



Source: Colorado Springs Sports Corporation

**This chart** shows participation in the Rocky Mountain State Games, a multi-sport festival for Colorado residents of all ages and athletic abilities, including those with physical disabilities or visual impairment. RMSG is recognized by the National Congress of State Games, a member of the United States Olympic Committee. The 2013 RMSG was the 12th annual, offering competition in 36 sports and engaging more than 9,300 athletes and 12,000 spectators.

### Why is this important?

This graph points to growing interest and involvement in sports and recreation in Colorado. It also demonstrates how major events such as RMSG draw state-wide participation that in turn increases consumer spending on lodging, restaurants and other local establishments.

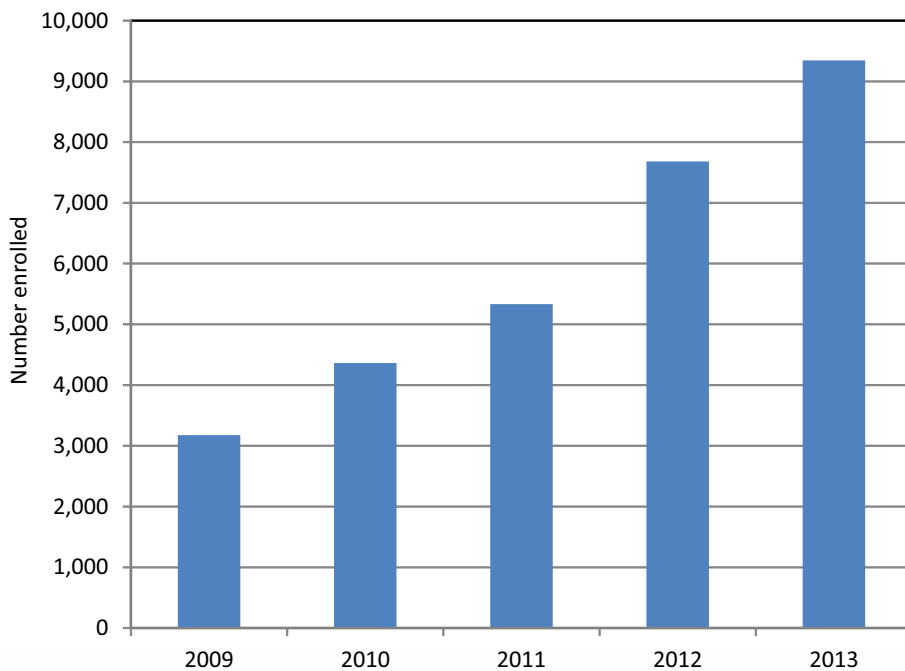
### How are we doing?

Total participation has more than tripled since 2002. RMSG features various sports from the Olympic and Pan American Games, as well as sports with regional popularity. Due to increased community interest and rising demand for recreational outlets, sports like pickleball, skateboarding, disc golf and ultimate frisbee were added to the 2013 line-up.



Both photographs courtesy of the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

## Silver Sneakers Participation



Source: YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region

**This chart** shows participation in Senior Sneakers, a physical activity program for seniors. Participants have access to exercise equipment, land and water exercise classes, and various recreational programs. It is the largest program of its kind in the country. Facility memberships are free to Medicare participants.

The number of eligible Silver Sneakers members has more than doubled from 2009 to 2013 in Colorado, in large part due to adding a large group retiree plan with the Public Employee Retirement Association in 2010.

### Why is this important?

Physical activity is critical for the health, wellness and quality of life of this rapidly-increasing population. Wellness was also one of the six key areas identified at the Innovations in Aging seminar held by area community leaders

in 2010 to address the area's aging population's needs. According to the Milken Institute's 2012 Best Cities for Successful Aging report, the Colorado Springs MSA has more than 65,000 individuals aged 65 or older, more than 10 percent of the population. By 2015, that population will increase to more than 82,000.

The Recreation and Wellness Committee for the Summit recommended that the Colorado Springs MSA address senior recreational needs by: more organizations offering more activities and exercise options; more intergenerational programs; addressing transportation needs to recreational venues; attracting more health care providers to better serve the seniors in exercise and recreation options; and a clearinghouse for information on recreational opportunities.

Various senior recreational programs and services are currently delivered by Colorado Springs and Woodland Park Parks & Recreation, Senior Resource Center, El Paso and Teller Counties, YMCAs, recreation and fitness centers, museums, libraries and other recreational providers.

### How are we doing?

Silver Sneakers came to the Pikes Peak MSA in 2004 and now boasts more than 9,300 in El Paso County and over 300 members in Teller County. Since 2012, there has been a nearly 18 percent increase in El Paso County members and a 20 percent increase in Teller County.

Other cities that have intentionally focused on providing additional senior sports opportunities in their communities have often formed associations to address these needs, such as Charlotte Senior Sports, whose mission is to provide recreational, competitive athletics for those 45 and over; Florida Senior Sports Association, which offers softball tournaments; and San Antonio's Sports For Life.

**For more information, contact** YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region.



**For more information** on the aging population, senior health and protective services, see pages 10, 69, 70, and 118.

Photograph courtesy of Silver Sneakers

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# Parks Ranking Comparison

City	Ranking
Omaha and Albuquerque	11th
Colorado Springs	14th
Denver	17th
Oklahoma City	43rd

Source: Trust for Public Land

**This chart** shows how the City of Colorado Springs parks rank out of 50 U.S. cities. The Trust for Public Land conducts a parks study annually. This is the first year Colorado Springs was included. The rankings took into account park accessibility, number of playgrounds, total acres of parkland and park spending per resident.

### Why is this important?

When residents are asked if parks, trails and open spaces are important assets, a majority respond yes. The ranking of our parks aligns with the desires and expectations of those who live here and use them for recreation.

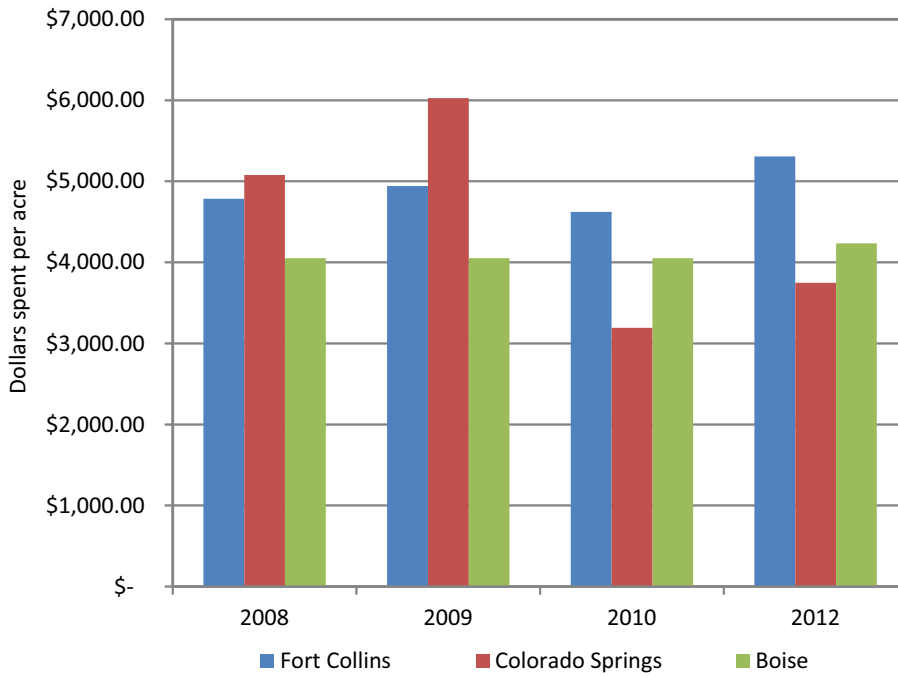
### How are we doing?

Parks in this city scored best in distance to parks (73 percent of residents live within a 10 minute walk), number of playgrounds (3.5 per 10,000 residents) and land for parks (14.4 percent of city area, national average is 9.3 percent). The city ranked 41st of 50 in park spending per resident, \$62 compared with the national median of \$76.



Photograph courtesy of City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

# Parks Maintenance Cost



**This chart** shows how many dollars per acre are spent maintaining developed park land in Colorado Springs, Ft. Collins and Boise, Idaho. A developed park is defined as an area that is improved with playground, sports fields, landscaping, picnic facilities, restrooms, or similar amenities, as opposed to undeveloped open space that is in its natural state.

**Why is this important?**

Park maintenance includes mowing, irrigation, care of playground equipment, sports fields, tennis courts, irrigation systems, restroom facilities and a number of other maintenance requirements that vary from park to park. When parks are maintained, they are considered assets by neighbors and park users and become less of a target for vandalism.

Source: City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

**How are we doing?**

Continued reduced funding for parks maintenance puts Colorado Springs behind comparison cities, as well as the national median. The 2011-2012 Mayor’s Parks Solution Team has created a list of priorities which include improved maintenance and reducing the amount of grass in parks to cut rising irrigation costs. Parks staff have created a list of recommended projects, including resurfacing tennis courts, repairing playgrounds and replacing some grass sports fields with artificial turf. These improvements will enhance recreational opportunities in many of our parks.

To enhance and extend sports programming, as well as address the ongoing costs of irrigation and maintenance associated with natural turf fields, the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department will begin converting dedicated fields to artificial turf including three scheduled for conversion in 2013.

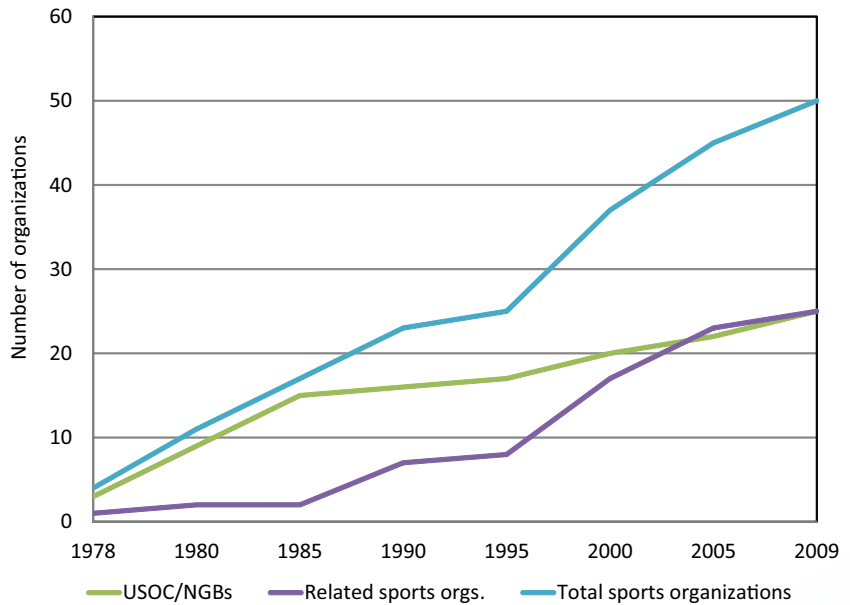
**For more information, contact** Friends groups, Parks Advisory Board, Trails and Open Space Volunteers.



Photograph courtesy of City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services



## Number of Sports Organizations



Source: Sport Operations Division, USOC

**The first chart** shows the growth in sports-related organizations in the Colorado Springs MSA. When the United States Olympic Committee first arrived in Colorado Springs in the late 1970s, there were only a small number of sports related organizations in the region. The location of the USOC has been followed by an influx of National Governing Bodies and High Performance Management Organizations.

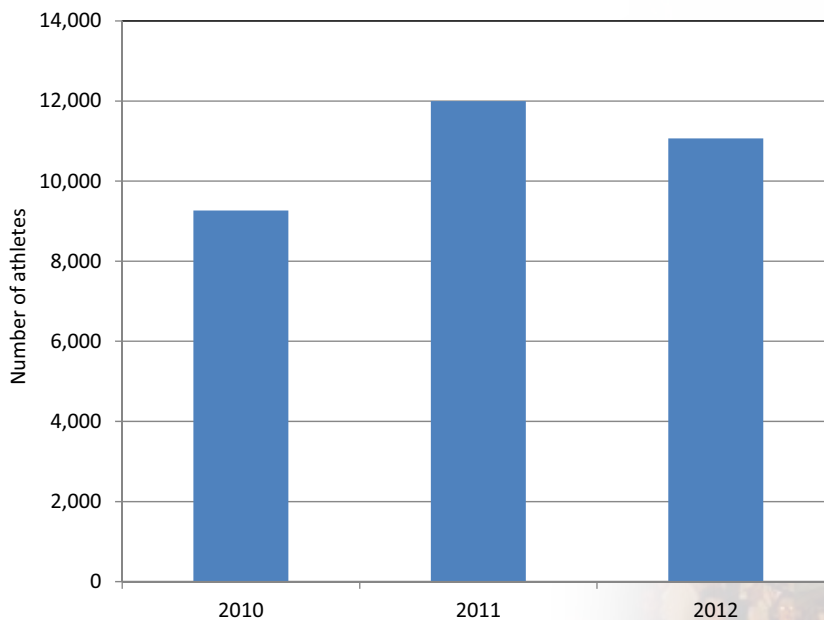
### Why is this important?

Sports organizations contribute to the local economy and the area's brand as a place for healthy living and recreation.

### How are we doing?

Since 2001, employment in sports related industries has increased by more than 34 percent, and the sector has grown 16.5 percent, significantly outpacing the growth of the region's overall labor force. In 2013, there are a total of 90 companies and an estimated 9,000 employees in the Colorado Springs MSA working in sports and contributing to the local economy.

## Number of Olympic Athletes Training



Source: Sport Operations Division, USOC

**The second chart** shows the number of athletes training in Colorado Springs over the last three years. The U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs is the flagship training center for the U.S. Olympic Committee. The USOC provides housing, dining, recreational facilities and other services for up to 557 coaches and athletes at one time on the complex.

### Why is this important?

Top level athletes and coaches from across the world are traveling to Colorado Springs to train and compete due to the region's altitude, air quality and other quality of life factors. These athletes and coaches contribute to the local economy.

### How are we doing?

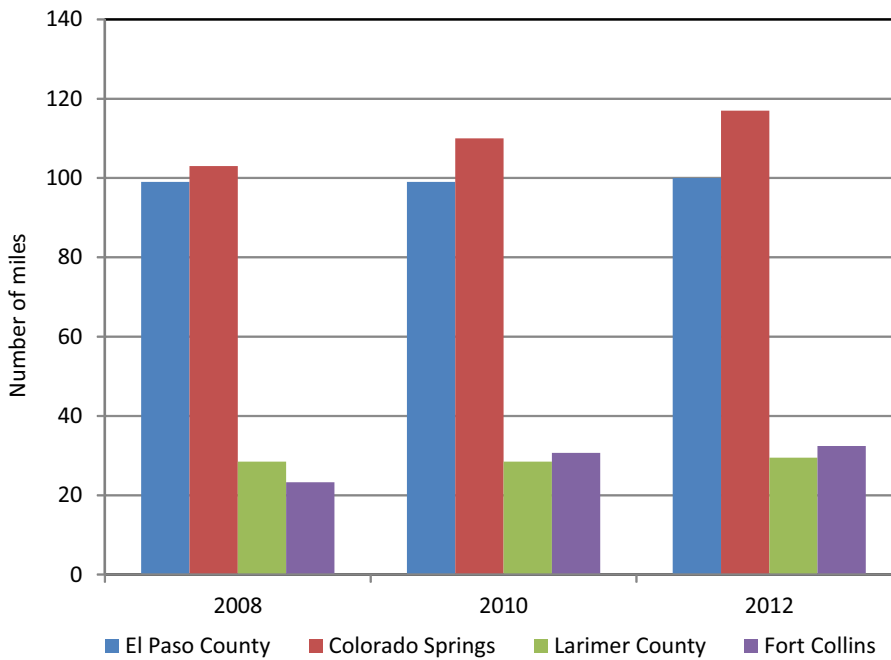
The number of athletes training locally has increased slightly over the past two years.

**For more information, contact** United States Olympic Committee, U.S. Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs Sports Corp.

Photograph courtesy of the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation

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# Trail Miles



Source: City of Colorado Springs Parks, City of Ft. Collins Parks, El Paso County Parks, Larimer County Parks

**This chart** shows city and county trails not within open spaces and parks, such as the Pikes Peak Greenway. Urban trails are used for recreation and transportation by walkers, joggers, bicyclists and equestrians. Trails and trail connectivity remain a priority for many residents. In El Paso County Parks’ recently updated Master Plan, the county’s trail system received high marks as a regional asset.

El Paso County’s new Master Plan lists 700 miles of regional trails as a key goal. The City of Colorado Springs will be updating its Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan this year. A regional non-motorized transportation master plan is also underway and will target opportunities in the trail system.

In Fort Collins, 78 percent of the residents say they use the city

and county’s trail systems. Fort Collins and Larimer County each have a 0.25 percent Open Lands tax that supports the development of new trails. Colorado Springs’ 0.1 percent Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) tax continues through 2025. Up to 20 percent of Colorado Springs TOPS tax can be used to construct new trails.

## Why is this important?

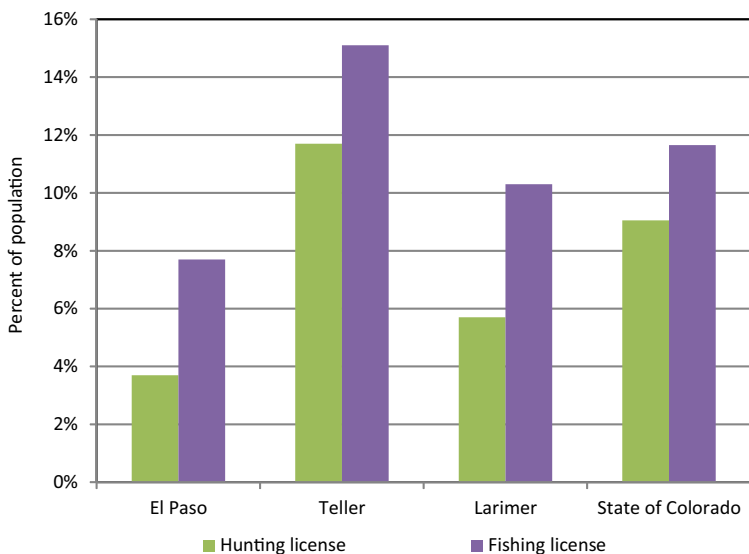
Communities that add to their trail system and improve trail connectivity are responding to residents and tourists who see these as recreational assets. The Pikes Peak Greenway, Rock Island Trail, Sand Creek Trail, Cottonwood Creek Trail and Templeton Gap Trail have all seen significant improvements. Running clubs are increasing in popularity and use the urban trail system for their events. Jack Quinn’s Running Club has close to 6,300 members. The annual Turkey Trot sponsored by the YMCA attracts more than 3,000 participants. The Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon, a race up and down Pikes Peak, are capped annually at 1,800 and 800 respectively and are always filled to capacity.

## How are we doing?

El Paso County has not increased trail miles in several years due to budget challenges. 2013 will see the expansion of the Ute Regional Trail. In Colorado Springs, the new Midland trail now provides connectivity from the Pikes Peak Greenway to Manitou Springs. Arguably the region’s most unique trail, the Incline, is now legally open for public use. Considerable restoration of the Incline is required before events can be scheduled.

**For more information, contact** Incline Friends, Black Forest Trails Association, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, Trails and Open Space Coalition.

## Hunting and Fishing Licenses



Source: Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife

**This chart** shows the percentage of the population purchasing hunting and fishing licenses in 2012.

### Why is this important?

Hunting and fishing provide significant contributions to the Colorado Springs MSA's tourist economy, for a total of \$108,150,000 in a 2008 report.

### How are we doing?

As might be expected given their proximity to forests and lakes, a larger percentage of Teller County residents hunt and fish than El Paso and Larimer Counties and the state.

**The second chart** shows the number of visits to Mueller and Cheyenne Mountain State Parks in 2011 and 2012. Mueller State Park rarely has vacant campsites on weekends from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Cheyenne Mountain State Park first offered camping in the fall of 2008.

### Why is this important?

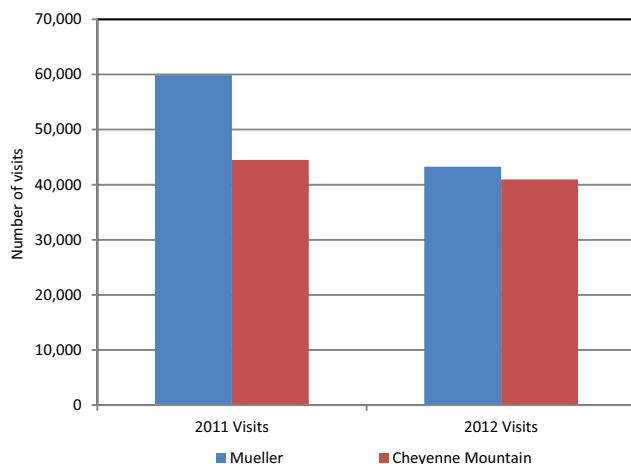
The Colorado Springs MSA is a great place to fish, hunt, watch wildlife and camp. Access to camping gives families on fixed budgets affordable recreational options. Gas prices are a factor as families plan vacations and having camping options within the county are a plus.

### How are we doing?

Camping is very popular with residents and non-residents in the Pikes Peak region. El Paso and Teller Counties have dozens of private campgrounds, and with dispersed campsites in the National Forest and several State Parks, there are hundreds of public land campsites. With two very popular State Parks in the region, they anticipate continued growth of visitors in 2013. However, the Springer and Waldo Canyon fires in 2012 resulted in a reduction from 2011.

**For more information, contact** Mueller State Park and Cheyenne Mountain State Park.

## Camping Visits to Local State Parks



Source: Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife



# Safety

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Colorado Springs Police Department

**FIRE MARSHALL BRETT LACEY**, Convener  
Colorado Springs Fire Department

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**GLENDA KELLY**  
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**MOLLY MILES**  
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**CLAIRE ANDERSON**  
El Paso County Bar Association

**JANE ANDERSON**  
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**RAYMOND BERNIER**  
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El Paso County Sheriff's Office

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Colorado State Patrol

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**DEPUTY CHIEF BILL ELDER**  
Fountain Police Department

**CHRIS GARVIN**  
El Paso County Department of Human Services

**DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN GOMES**  
Woodland Park Police Department

**MAILE GRAY**  
Drive Smart Colorado

**CHIEF BOB HARVEY**  
Black Forest Fire and Rescue

**ORIAN HENDRICKSON**  
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**TIFFANY HUNTZ**  
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**BETHENY KELEMEN**  
Manitou Springs Police Department

**SHAWNA KEMPPAINEN**  
TESSA

**KIM KITCHEN**  
District Attorney's Office

**TYLER LAMBERT**  
Northeast Teller County Fire Department

**DIANA MAY**  
District Attorney's Office

**SCOTT MCCUNE**  
American Medical Response

**MELISSA MITCHELL**  
Pikes Peak Library District

**TED MOSSMAN**  
Vectra Bank Colorado

**JON MUELLER**  
El Paso County Sheriff's Office

**DEB NEUHAUS**  
Colorado Springs Police Department

**JESSE ORTIZ**  
Colorado Springs Fire Department

**PAULA PRESLEY**  
El Paso County Sheriff's Office

**SHIRLEY RHODUS**  
El Paso County Department of Human Services

**CHIEF JOE RIBEIRO**  
Manitou Springs Police Department

**JOSEPH RUFFINI**  
JP and Associates

**PAT RUFFINI**  
Colorado Springs Teen Court

**CHRIS TRUTY**  
Tri-Lakes/Monument Police Department  
Mount Prospect Fire Department

**KEN VALDEZ**  
Community Volunteer

**DEE VAZQUEZ SABOL**  
Pikes Peak Library District

**SARA YACKLEY**  
Community Volunteer

**TINA YOUNG**  
Colorado Springs Police Department

*Photograph courtesy of El Paso County Sheriff's Office*



Public safety is a community responsibility and providing for it must be a collaborative effort. Safety is one of the most important factors related to quality of life. When our safety is compromised, we become fearful to participate in activities and question societal values.

2012 and 2013 have proven to be exceptionally trying, as two separate wildfires each sequentially became the most disastrous events in Colorado history. This strain was felt by all the surrounding communities as resources, equipment, donations and collaborative efforts were shared. We have yet to conduct a comprehensive community discussion about the risks, costs and values associated with residing and working in the wildland-urban interface.

Wildfires are only one of the inherent risks our communities have. We manage other risks and problems that impact the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens. Child, elder and domestic abuse, alcohol and substance abuse, emergency medical services, juvenile fire setting, and criminal acts all play a part in our overall sense of safety and security.

Public Safety researchers evaluated common safety indicators throughout the Colorado Springs MSA which can impact our productivity and quality of life. We analyze trends, highlight successes and anticipate how community growth and change may affect our overall safety now and into the future.

### **Safety in the home**

Abuse remains a significant concern in the Colorado Springs MSA. Large numbers of abuse or neglect signify instability and stress within family units. Child abuse has skyrocketed in El Paso County, culminating in the death of 10 children in 2011. In 2012, the community launched Not One More Child Coalition, a program of more than 140 representatives and 50 organizations. The program resulted in significantly fewer deaths from abuse by year's end, the lowest number since 2007. NOMC demonstrated that early intervention, education and implementation of various strategies can provide a safer environment for children to survive and thrive.

Nationally, 85 percent of all children killed in

fires die from a fire they initiated. In Colorado Springs, arson by juveniles is the leading cause of arson. The Colorado Springs Fire Department's FireFactor program has been recognized statewide as an effective way to educate children and parents about the risk of careless fire behavior. While incidents are higher than we would like, they are not increasing and we are hopeful that with additional program re-evaluation and sustained support, juvenile fire-setting will decrease significantly.

### **Crime**

While the Colorado Springs MSA has a lower crime rate than the national average, there's still room for improvement. As an example, the El Paso County Sheriff's Gateways Through the Rockies program offers job and skill training to inmates, which increases the community's skilled labor force and contributes more than \$100,000 in wages to the local economy.

### **First-responder medical care**

Issues related to our current national health care crisis are being addressed by multiple agencies in the region. Statistical evidence shows that local emergency medical services cooperators are making great strides at reducing deaths as a result of cardiac arrest.

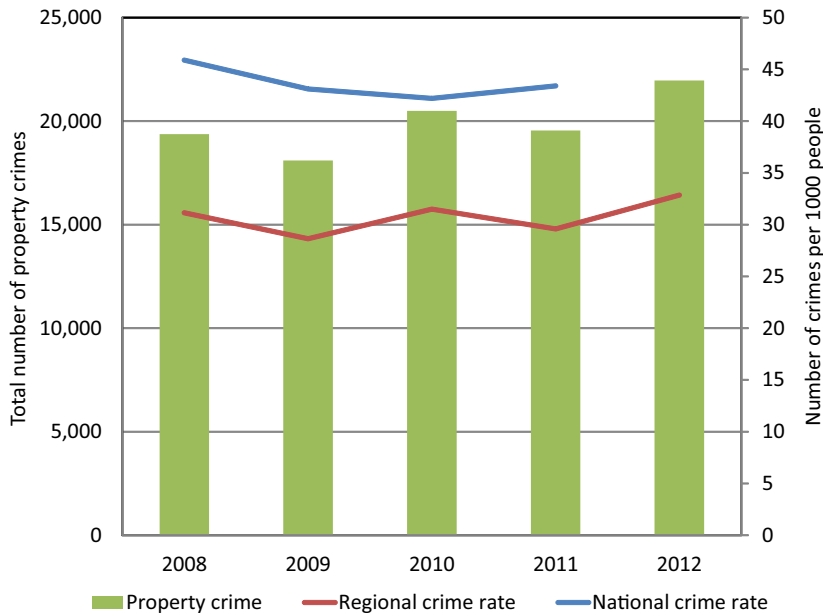
### **Traffic fatalities**

Drug abuse-related traffic fatalities are detrimental to our communities. Education and enforcement help reduce this risk, through prosecution of offenders, law enforcement trainings, saturation patrols, DUI checkpoints and equipment.



*Photograph courtesy of El Paso County Sheriff's Office*

# Property Crime Rates



**The first chart** shows number of property crimes (bars), as well as crime rates (lines) per 1,000 persons in our region as compared to national rates. Property crimes are burglary, larceny, auto theft and robbery.

**The second chart** shows number of violent crimes (bars), as well as crime rates (lines) per 1,000 persons in our region as compared to national rates. Violent crime includes murder, assault and sexual assault.

### Why is this important?

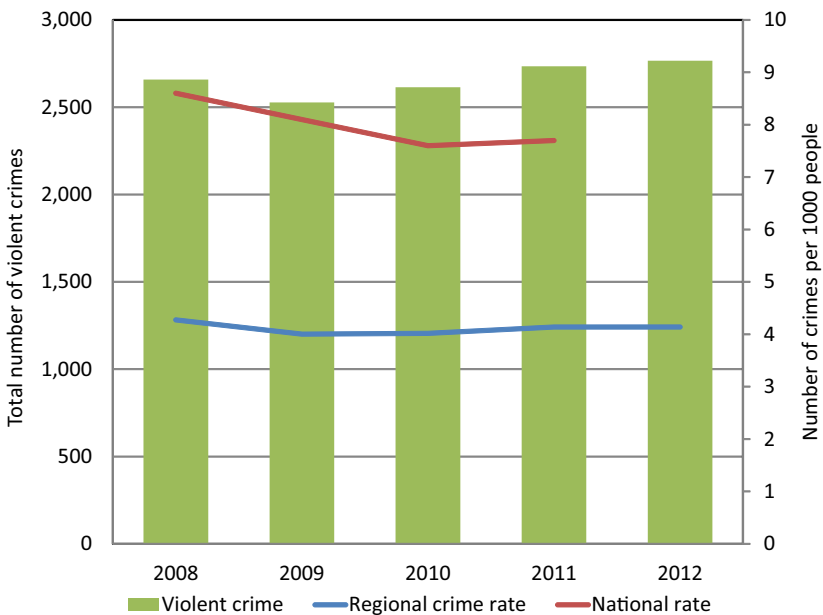
Maintaining low crime rates is crucial to preserving safe and vibrant communities. Tracking the local crime rate allows us to evaluate crime reduction strategies currently at work in our community. Providing a national comparison creates a context for that evaluation. From those comparisons we can set priorities aimed at understanding and addressing specific crime problems. Engaging community partners is important in creating sustainable reductions in crime.

### How are we doing?

Property crimes are increasing (13 percent since 2008.) Despite the fact that our region is consistently below national rates, we can see the property crime rate gap narrowing. The rate of increase from 2011 to 2012 is the largest seen during the past five years (12 percent.) In our region, violent crime has fluctuated during the past five years from a low of 2,528 in 2009 to a high of 2,766 in 2012. Violent crime has increased four percent since 2008. Despite this upward trend, our area is still well below the national average of 7.7 violent crimes per 1,000.

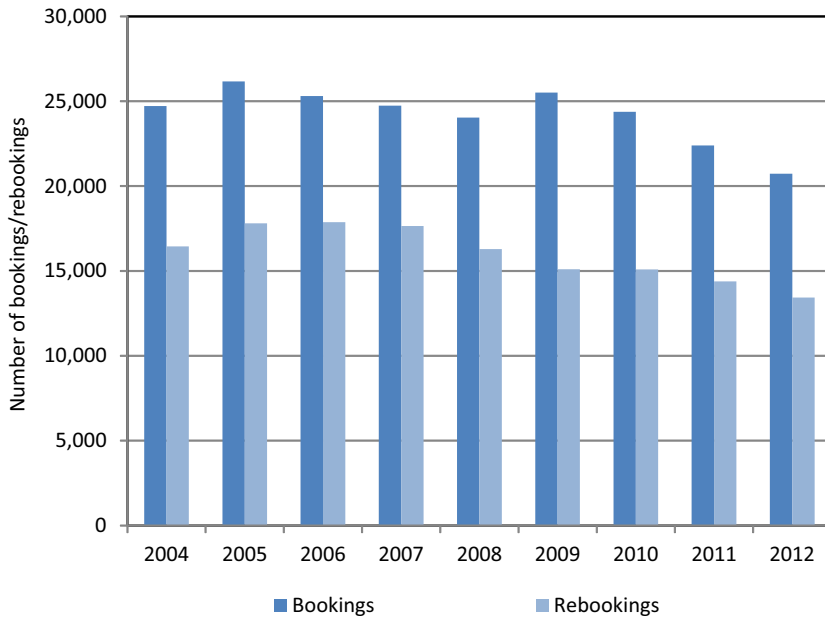
**For more information, contact** Colorado Springs Police Department, Cripple Creek Police Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Fountain Police Department, Manitou Springs Police Department, Teller County Sheriff's Office, Woodland Park Police Department

# Violent Crime Rates



Source for both charts: Colorado Springs Police Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Office

# Jail Booking and Rebooking in El Paso County



Source: El Paso County Sheriff's Office

**This chart** shows the total number of people booked into the El Paso County Criminal Justice Center for a given year and the number of people rebooked during that same year.

**Why is this important?**

Repeat offenders have a human and fiscal impact. Repeat offenders are generally not productive members of society. While incarcerated, they do not support their families, hold jobs or pay taxes. They place a burden on government resources.

**How are we doing?**

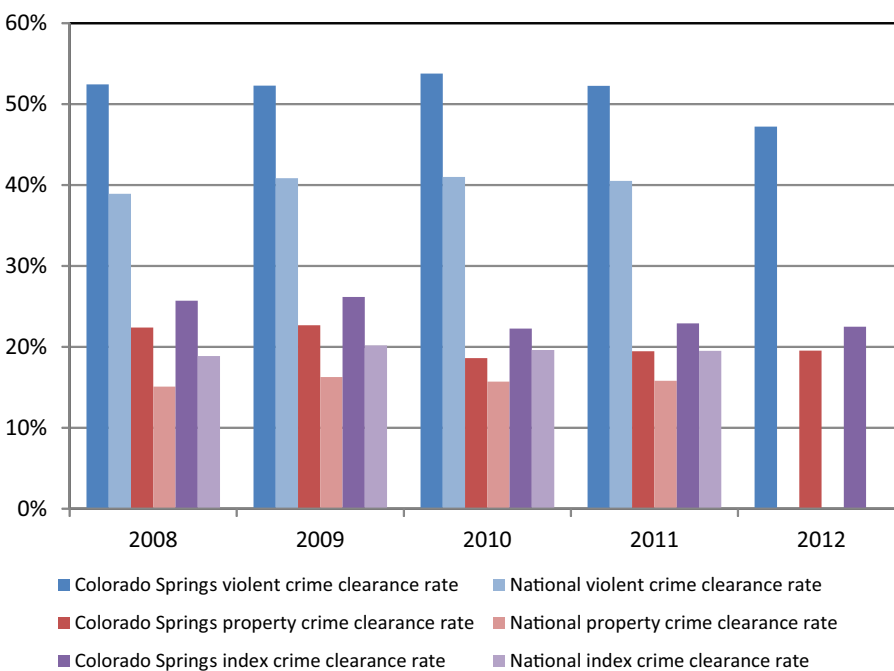
Beginning in 2010, total bookings and rebookings show a steady decline. This decline can be attributed to numerous programs offered to inmates to better prepare them for community reintegration.

These programs include:

- Reintegration and Recovery Program prepares prisoners for more productive lives upon return to society.
- El Paso County Detox Facility provides safe and effective detoxification treatment and an alternative to incarceration.
- Gateways Through the Rockies offers job skills to El Paso County inmates through business partnerships and service contracts.

For more information, contact the El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

# Colorado Springs Crime Clearance Rate



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department

**This chart** compares the percent of crimes solved in Colorado Springs to the percent of crimes solved in the United States.

**Why is this important?**

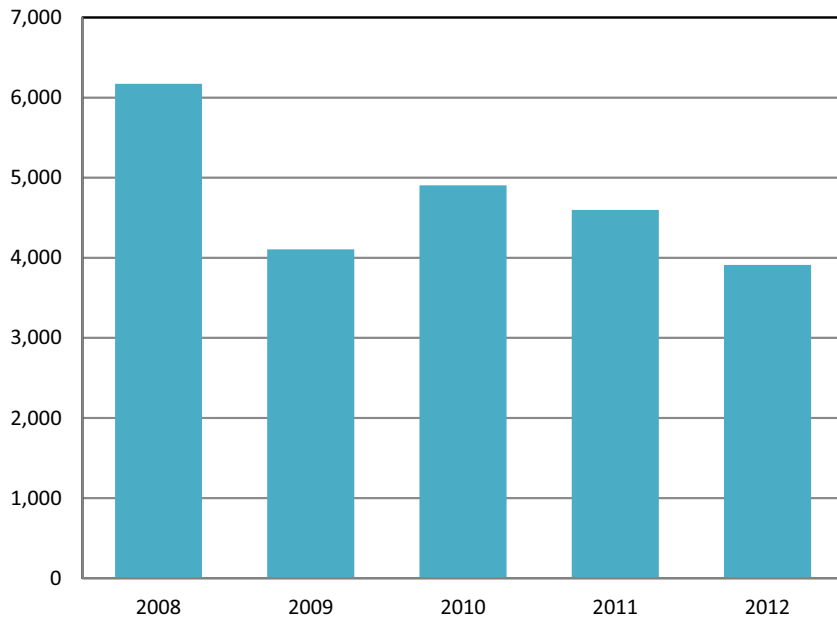
Identifying the perpetrators of crime makes possible their conviction, punishment and rehabilitation, and helps to prevent their continued criminal activity.

**How are we doing?**

Police in Colorado Springs solve a significantly higher percent of crimes than the average across the country.

# Juvenile Crime

## Number of Arrests in Colorado Springs and El Paso County



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office

The first chart shows a decline in number of juvenile arrests in El Paso County.

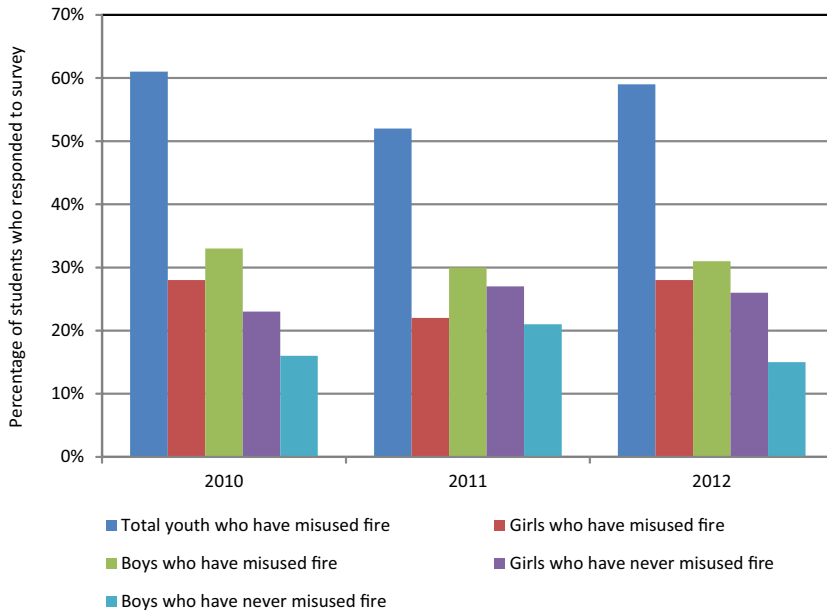
### Why is this important?

Youth who commit crimes are more likely to continue to commit crimes, often more violent and costly ones, as adults.

### How are we doing?

There were more than 2,000 fewer arrests of juveniles in Colorado Springs and El Paso County in 2012 than in 2008.

## Misuse of Fire by Youth, Ages 11-13



Source: Colorado Springs Fire Department, Fire Factor Program

The second chart shows survey responses from sixth and seventh grade students from local school districts. Students participated in FireFactor, a Colorado Springs Fire Department prevention program which emphasizes good decision-making, accountability and consequences of misusing fire.

### Why is this important?

Nationally, 85 percent of all children killed in fires die as a result of a fire they started themselves. Arson is the leading cause of fire in Colorado Springs, with child-set fires one of the top arson causes. Statistically for every reported child-set fire, 10 others occur that are never reported. Risky behavior such as misusing fire can signify other problems in a child's life and can be accompanied with negative behavior changes, attention deficits, problems at school and poor self-esteem. Oftentimes, what is seen as "child's play" is actually an indicator of other stressors, which impact everyone in the family and the community.

### How are we doing?

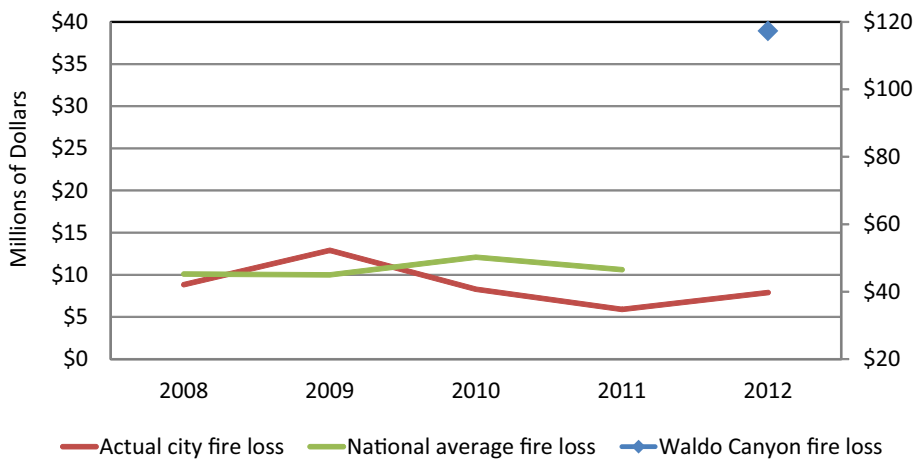
A three-year average of results shows 56 percent of students have misused fire; of these, 31 percent are males and 25 percent are females.

These statistics indicate that fire misuse is high and is more evident in males than females. Annually, 2,500-3,000 students participate in the FireFactor prevention program and almost 200 children are referred for intervention each year.

For more information, contact AspenPointe, Rockies Counseling Center, CSPD, Pikes Peak Regional Building Department, Colorado Springs Juvenile Diversion Program, Colorado Springs Fire Department.



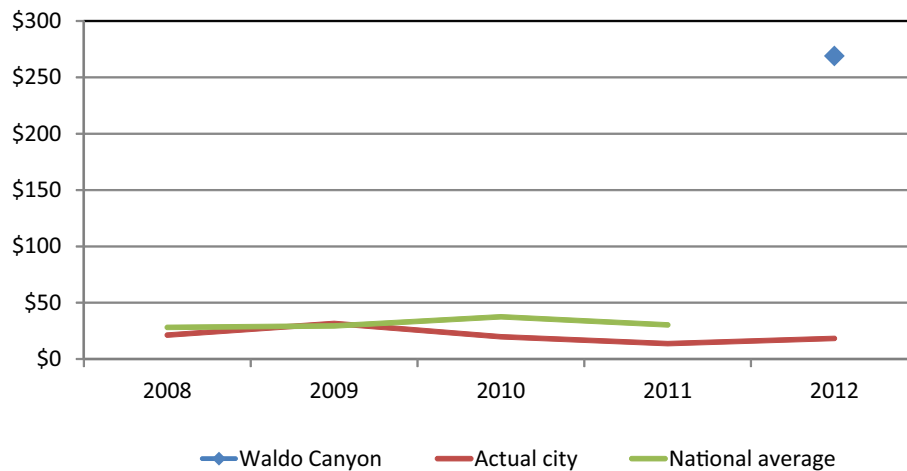
## Actual Fire Loss in Millions of Dollars



**These charts** show total fire loss and per capita fire loss since 2008. City data is compared to the national averages of cities with populations between 250,000 and 499,999 (Colorado Springs has an estimated population of 429,700.) National data is provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and is only available through 2011.

In the first chart, city fire loss and national average fire loss are reported in millions of dollars. In the second chart, city and national per capita fire loss are reported in real dollars. The trends represent efforts toward fire prevention, mitigation and suppression. City fire loss in 2012 is displayed with and without the \$109.7 million Waldo Canyon Fire loss.

## Actual Fire Loss Per Capita (Dollars Per Person)



### How are we doing?

Colorado Springs' total fire loss trend has decreased by 10 percent from 2008 to 2012, well below the 5 percent national increase shown. The per capita loss chart shows the predicted national loss to be about \$30.40 for 2011, 3 percent above the 2009 national number of \$29.50.

Colorado Springs has a lower per capita fire loss than the national average. Local per capita loss for 2012 was \$18.40, a 7 percent decrease from 2009. When Waldo Canyon Fire data is added, per capita loss for 2012 is significantly increased to \$268.80.

Source for both charts: Colorado Springs Fire Department, National Fire Protection Association

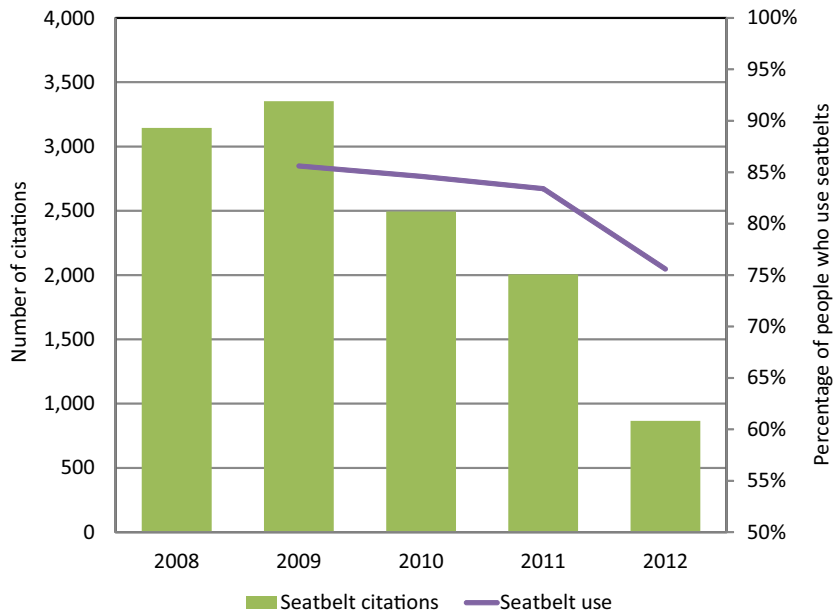
For more information, contact the Colorado Springs Fire Department.



Photograph by Steven "Smitty" Smith

# Seat Belt Usage

## Number of Arrests in Colorado Springs and El Paso County



Source : Colorado Springs Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office

The first chart shows the average seatbelt use rate in El Paso County and the number of seatbelt citations that are issued in the City of Colorado Springs by the Colorado Springs Police Department. Citation rate is an indicator of how much people are using seatbelts.

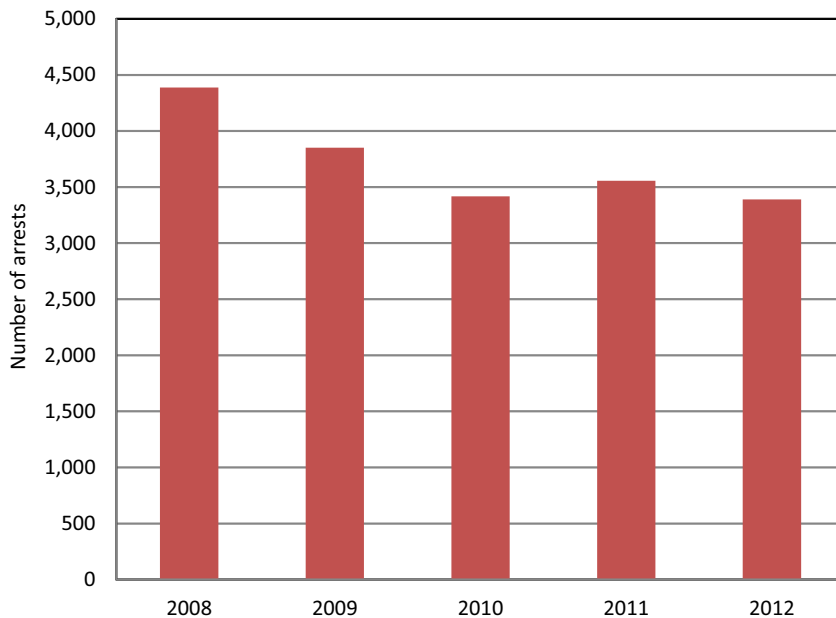
### Why is this important?

Seatbelts dramatically reduce risk of death and serious injury. 53 percent of drivers and passengers killed in car crashes in 2009 were not wearing restraints. Among drivers and front-seat passengers, seatbelts reduce the risk of death by 45 percent and cut the risk of serious injury by 50 percent. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, states with seatbelt laws had use rates about 10 percentage points higher than states without these laws. The NHTSA indicates that if every state encouraged police to actively enforce seat belt use, about 1,000 lives and \$4 billion in crash costs could be saved each year.

### How are we doing?

Just a few years ago, the El Paso County seatbelt use rate was several percentage points above the state average, but has since fallen just over 60 percent.

## DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Arrests



Sources: Colorado Springs Police Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Fountain Police Department, and Colorado State Patrol

The second chart shows the number of annual arrests in El Paso County and Teller counties that involved drugs and/or alcohol.

### Why is this important?

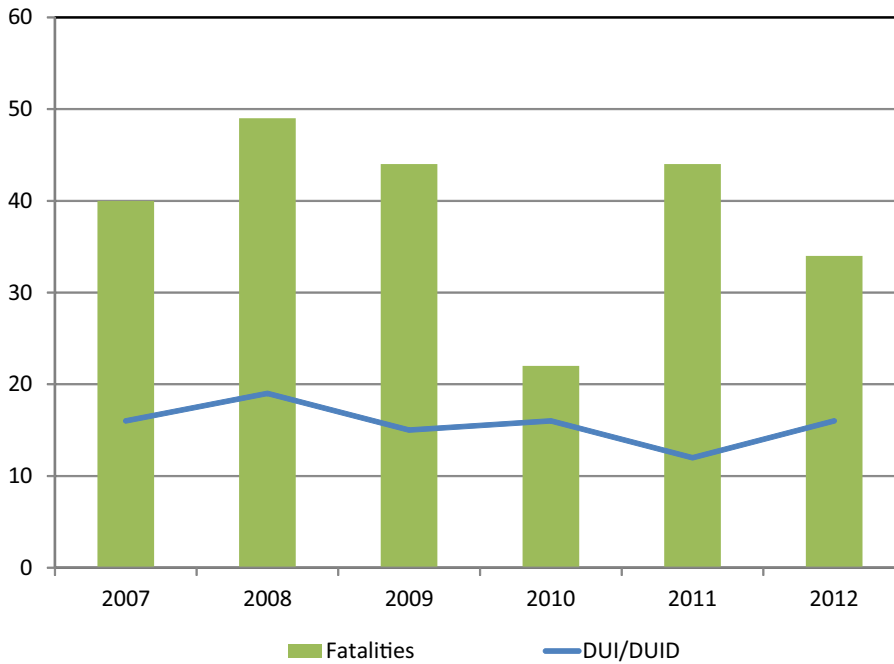
Impaired driving impacts not only people who drive intoxicated, but also innocent victims in their paths. Our area continues to be plagued by impaired drivers, whose behavior negatively impacts more people than just themselves.

### How are we doing?

While arrests have declined over the past five years, it is unclear whether this is due to less impaired driving or fewer resources devoted to detecting and arresting impaired drivers.

For more information, contact Drive Smart Colorado.

# Traffic Fatalities



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department, Colorado Department of Transportation

**This chart** indicates the percentage of the total fatalities that occurred each year in all of El Paso County and Teller that involved drugs and/or alcohol. For 2012, El Paso County had a total of 34 fatalities, and 16 of those involved an impaired driver (48 percent impairment rate). Teller County had only one fatality in 2012 that involved an impaired driver.

### Why is this important?

Impaired driving impacts not only people who choose to drive intoxicated, but also innocent victims in their path. Comprehensive education, targeted enforcement and prosecution are critical.

### How are we doing?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, about 11,000 people die in alcohol-impaired driving crashes each year – one every 48 minutes. NHTSA states that the national average for fatalities involving drug and alcohol impairment is nearly 31 percent of all traffic fatalities (2011). The percentage of traffic fatalities involving drug and alcohol in El Paso County is regularly above the national average, and 2012 was no different. The total percentage of drug/alcohol related fatalities in El Paso County was 48 percent. This statistic is well above the national average of nearly 33 percent of total fatalities which involve alcohol/drugs. Funding is critical for increasing education, enforcement and prosecution of offenders. Funding is also essential for law enforcement trainings, saturation patrols, DUI checkpoints and state-of-the-art equipment and upgrades.

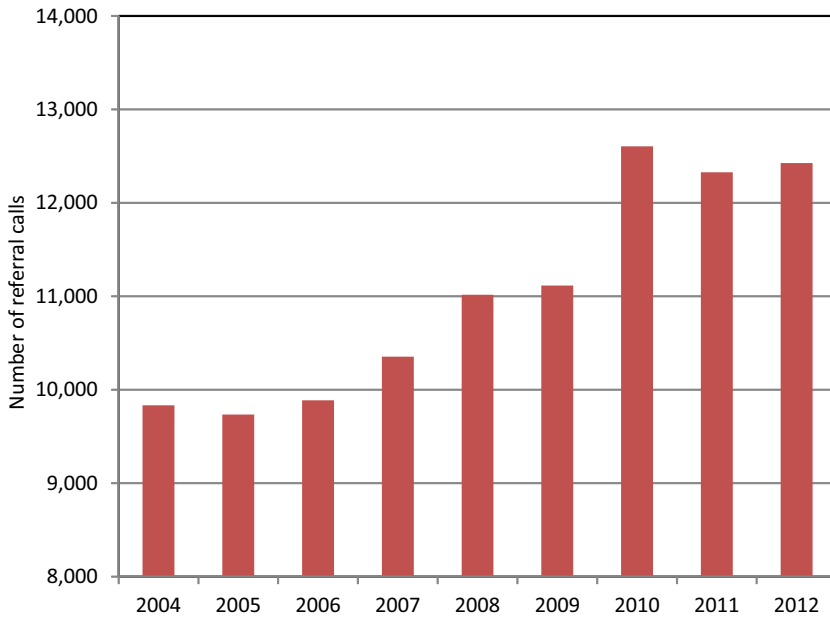
**If you would like to learn more, or get involved, please contact** Drive Smart Colorado.



Photograph by Steven "Smitty" Smith

# Child Abuse in El Paso County

## Referral Calls



**The first chart** shows the number of child abuse and neglect referrals received by the El Paso County Department of Human Services. A child abuse referral is any report taken regarding child maltreatment and may include reports of adolescents who are beyond the control of their parents or a danger to the community.

**The second chart** shows number of fatalities due to child abuse or neglect. Death from abuse includes blunt force trauma, shaken babies and gunshot wounds. Death as a result of neglect may occur from asphyxia due to an unsafe sleeping environment or when young children are left unsupervised and something happens, like drowning.

### Why is this important?

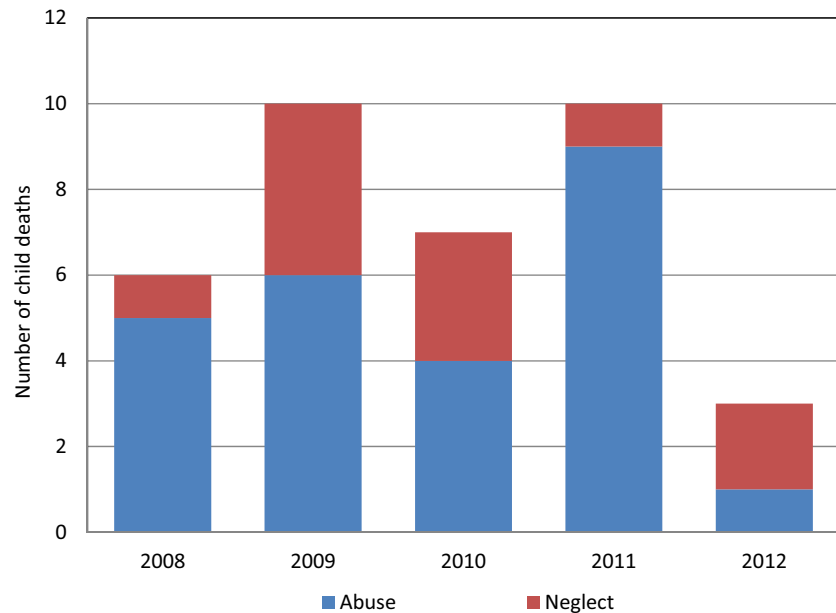
Referrals reflect the concerns of the community regarding children in need of

protection from child abuse or neglect. Reports signify instability and stress within families. A child's ability to develop and thrive is hampered, sometimes seriously or permanently, when basic needs for sufficiency and safety are not met. Children are dependent upon their parents and caretakers to meet their needs and keep them safe.

### How are we doing?

Child abuse and neglect referrals continue to show a steady increase over the past eight years. For the fifth year in a row, El Paso County received the most referrals of all Colorado counties. The Not One More Child Coalition was created in January of 2012 after 10 children in El Paso County were killed due to abuse or neglect in 2011. The goal of the coalition is to not see one more child in El Paso County die as a result of abuse or neglect. After one year of work in 2012, deaths due to abuse or neglect dropped to three children, the lowest number since 2007. NOMC is made up of more than 140 representatives and 50 organizations.

## Child Fatalities Due to Abuse or Neglect

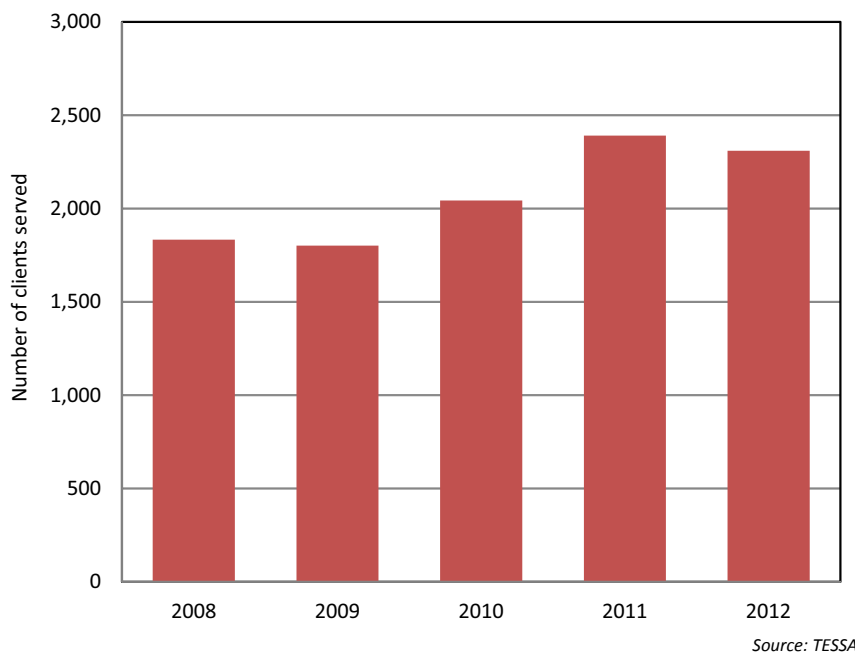


Source for both charts: El Paso County Department of Human Services



# Domestic Violence

## Number of Calls to TESSA



**The first chart** shows the number of domestic violence and sexual assault victims who have received services from TESSA, the area's only provider of confidential domestic violence services, from 2008 to 2012. Services are offered to both residential and non-residential clients. Residential clients are those women and children who reside in TESSA's safe house. Non-residential service numbers indicate clients who accessed TESSA's main office for confidential advocacy, counseling, and children's programming or other assistance.

### Why is this important?

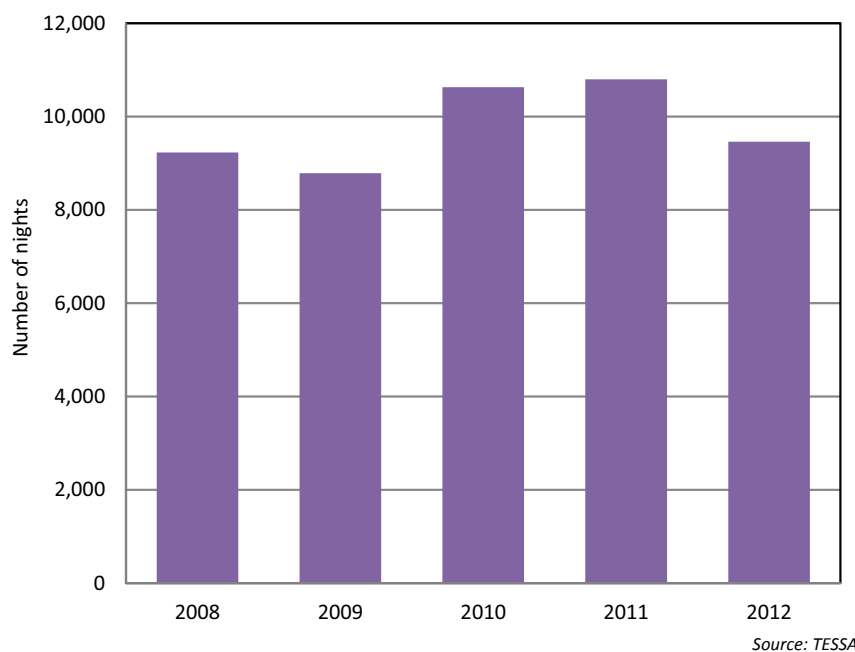
TESSA is the sole provider of services specifically geared toward victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in El Paso and Teller counties. Services include emergency safe shelter, a 24/7 crisis line and confidential advocacy and counseling for both adults and children. All of TESSA's services help victims overcome the trauma

of domestic violence and sexual assault and empower them to create safe lives of self-sufficiency.

### How are we doing?

Calls to TESSA increased significantly from 2008 to 2011 and remain at a high level.

## Nights of Safe Shelter Provided for Domestic Violence Victims



**The second chart** shows the number of nights/days of safe shelter provided to adult victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse and their children from 2008 through 2012 provided by TESSA.

### Why is this important?

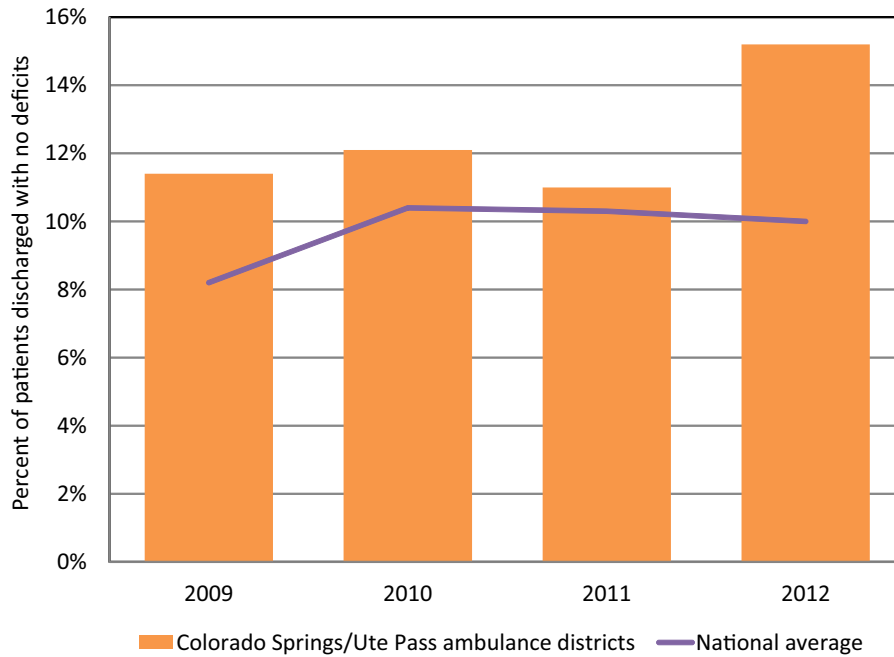
Domestic violence and sexual assault are devastating crimes that affect individuals, families and the entire community. The Colorado Springs Police Department responds to approximately 11,000 domestic violence calls annually, and the rate of sexual assault in Colorado Springs is the highest in the state of Colorado and three times the national average. Since 1990, there have been 36 domestic-violence-related homicides in Colorado Springs, comprising 19.7 percent of the city's total homicides.

### How are we doing?

Between 2009 and 2011, demand for TESSA's services increased by 23 percent, with 2011 marking an all-time high in the provision of safe shelter: 10,798 nights. The number of clients seeking help with temporary protection orders, safety planning and counseling also continues to increase.

**For more information, contact TESSA.**

# Cardiac Arrest Survival



Source: Colorado Springs Fire Department

**This chart** shows cardiac arrest patients who were discharged from the hospital with minimal to no neurologic deficits.

### Why is this important?

Improved outcomes in the cardiac arrest survival rates impact not just the fatality percentages but also the quality of life for the survivor and those close to him or her. This also could impact the ability to continue a productive life.

### How are we doing?

Colorado Springs/Ute Pass survival rates are consistently above the national average. This is probably due to multiple factors, including top quality ER and Cardiology along with state-of-the-art pre-hospital equipment. Rates may also be affected by CARES, a collaborative effort among the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Emory University and the American

Heart Association to develop a registry that could help increase out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival rates.

**Key agencies:** American Medical Response, Colorado Springs Fire Department

# Social Well-being

## Chairs and Convener

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Community Partnership for Child Development

**BART GIVENS**, Vice Chair  
Bridges Out of Poverty

**JOSH GATES**, Convener  
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**REBECCA KLUNDT**  
El Paso County Department of Human Services

**DAWN KRUGER**  
Peak Surveys

**KIM MAUTHE**  
Teller County Department of Human Services

**NICOLE PEREZ**  
University of the Rockies

**LISA REED**  
Silver Key Senior Services

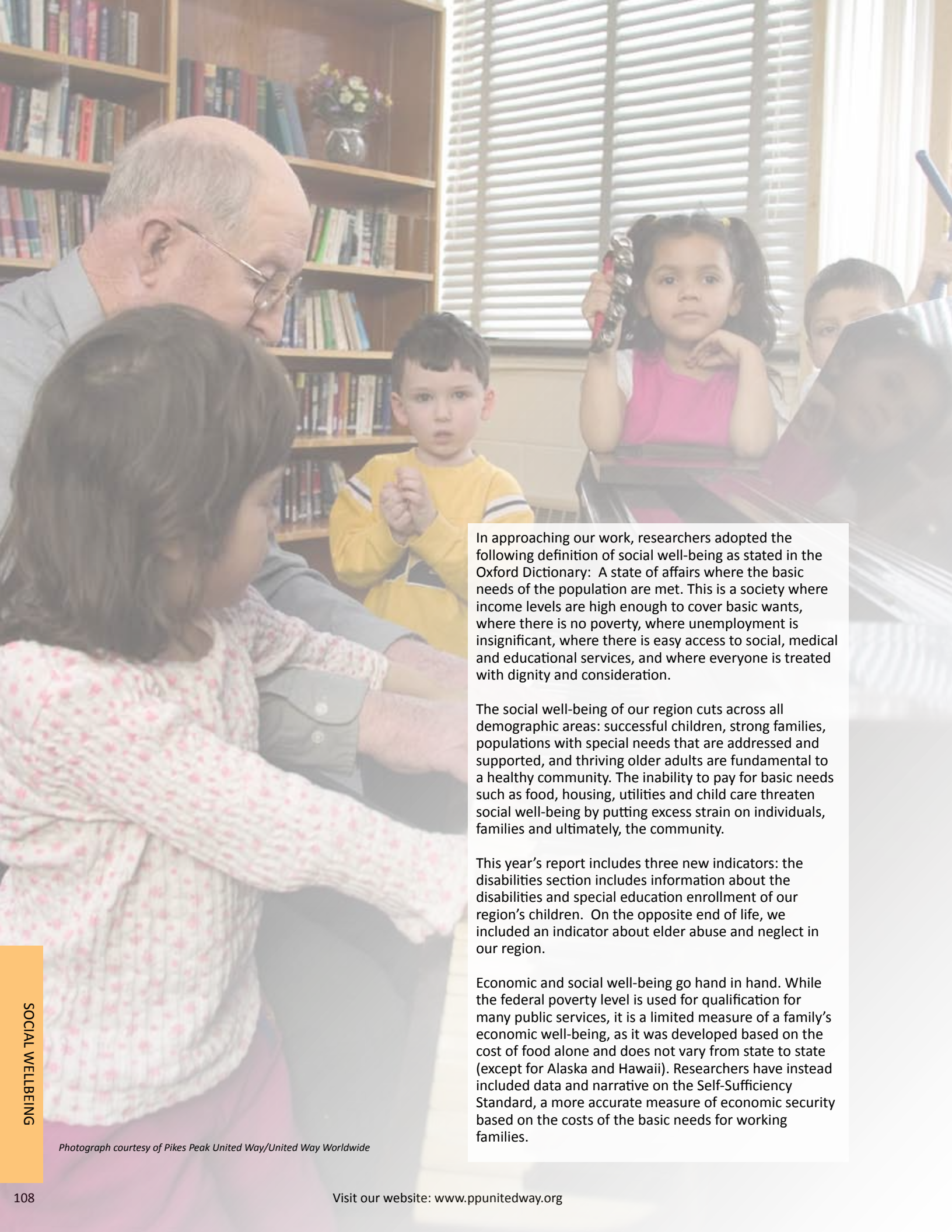
**BETH ROALSTAD**  
Innovations in Aging

**ANN TURNER**  
Cheyenne Village



*Photograph by Tom Kimmel, courtesy of Pikes Peak United Way*





In approaching our work, researchers adopted the following definition of social well-being as stated in the Oxford Dictionary: A state of affairs where the basic needs of the population are met. This is a society where income levels are high enough to cover basic wants, where there is no poverty, where unemployment is insignificant, where there is easy access to social, medical and educational services, and where everyone is treated with dignity and consideration.

The social well-being of our region cuts across all demographic areas: successful children, strong families, populations with special needs that are addressed and supported, and thriving older adults are fundamental to a healthy community. The inability to pay for basic needs such as food, housing, utilities and child care threaten social well-being by putting excess strain on individuals, families and ultimately, the community.

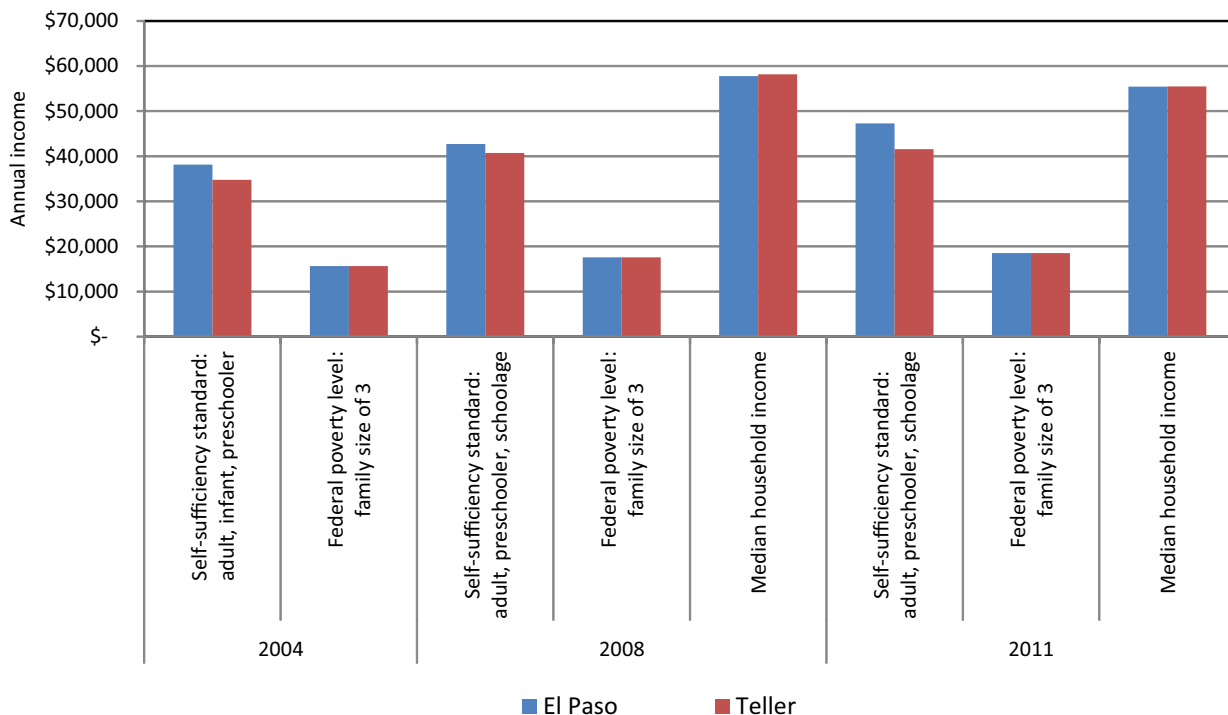
This year's report includes three new indicators: the disabilities section includes information about the disabilities and special education enrollment of our region's children. On the opposite end of life, we included an indicator about elder abuse and neglect in our region.

Economic and social well-being go hand in hand. While the federal poverty level is used for qualification for many public services, it is a limited measure of a family's economic well-being, as it was developed based on the cost of food alone and does not vary from state to state (except for Alaska and Hawaii). Researchers have instead included data and narrative on the Self-Sufficiency Standard, a more accurate measure of economic security based on the costs of the basic needs for working families.

*Photograph courtesy of Pikes Peak United Way/United Way Worldwide*



# Self-Sufficiency Standard



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**This chart** shows the gaps between the Self-Sufficiency Standard, the Federal Poverty Level and the disparity of both with the median household income. The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a carefully-researched tool that is a measure of economic security based on the costs of basic needs for working families: housing, child care, food, health care and transportation, as well as the cost of taxes and the impact of tax credits. The Self-Sufficiency Standard does not include some services that many would consider to be needed to communicate in our technology-driven society, such as internet access. The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a sophisticated measure of income adequacy for families of distinct size, composition and geographic location.

### Why is this important?

Self-sufficiency means families are able to meet their basic needs without having to rely on public or private assistance. The traditional measure of economic well-being is the Federal Poverty Level, but it is calculated based on the cost of food alone and is uniform for all families of a given size, regardless of where they live in the continental United States or the actual composition of the family. It is the measure by which poverty rates and eligibility for most government benefits are determined. Despite the fact that the Federal Poverty Level is more widely used, the Self-Sufficiency Standard is a more accurate measure of income required to cover basic needs.

### How are we doing?

In 2011, the Federal Poverty Level was \$18,530 for a family of three, regardless of the family composition and geographic location of the family in the continental U.S. But the Self-Sufficiency Standard was \$47,300 in El Paso County and \$41,850 in Teller County. Both measures fall far short of the median household income (\$55,412 for El Paso and \$55,452 for Teller.) The Self-Sufficiency Standard was 155 percent above the Federal Poverty Level in El Paso County and 125 percent in Teller County. More and more families are finding they are unable to stretch their wages to meet the rising costs of basic necessities.

### Total Population in Poverty

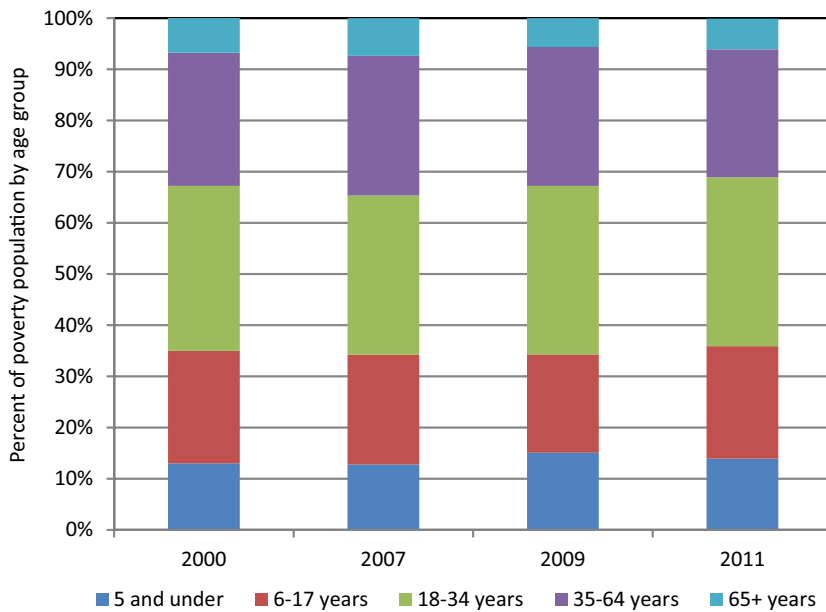
2000	2007	2009	2011
9.26%	10.00%	11.20%	12.90%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



**For more information** on area median household income, see page 48.

# Poverty by Age Group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**The first chart** shows the breakdown by age of the population of the Colorado Springs MSA who are living at or below the federal poverty line. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issues annual guidelines defining the level of income at the poverty level for the United States.

**The second chart** shows the percentage of children under 18 years of age living in poverty.

### Why is this important?

Eligibility for programs such as Medicaid, the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, Housing Assistance and Free and Reduced Lunch program in schools is often determined by using percentages of the Federal Poverty Level. While “poverty” is often used to refer to lack of money, financial instability is also physically and emotionally damaging. Poverty has profound effects on children’s physical,

emotional and cognitive health and development, with long-term implications for education, health and behavior. Poor families are more likely than middle-class families to be exposed to many negative events, including dropping out of school, teen pregnancy, illness, depression, eviction, job loss, criminal victimization and family death.

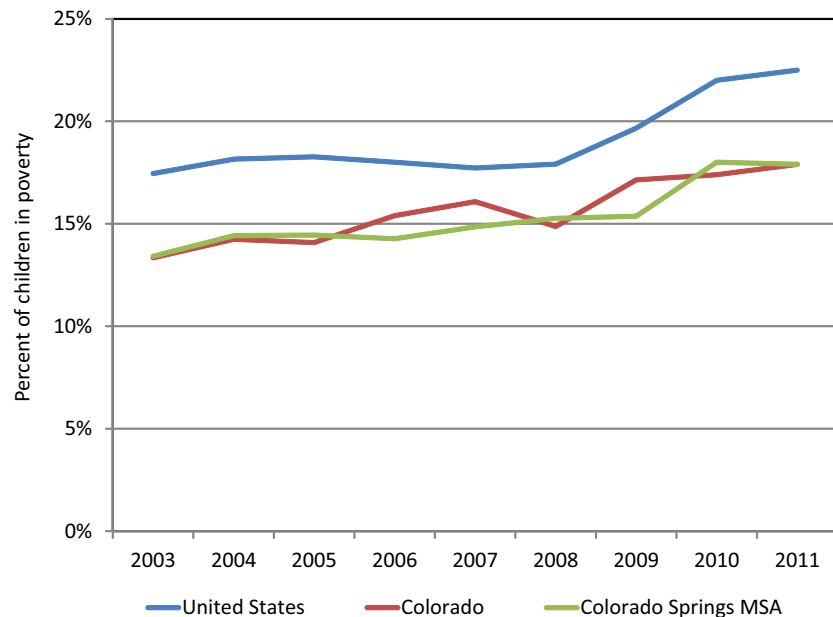
### How are we doing?

While Colorado’s child poverty rate was 10 percent in 2000, by 2011 it reached almost 18 percent in both the state and Colorado Springs MSA. More than one in six children in El Paso and Teller Counties lives in poverty. The rapid growth of Colorado’s child poverty rate during much of the last decade has begun to slow somewhat, particularly in comparison to the national child poverty rate, which rose from 18 to 23 percent between 2008 and 2011.



For more information on poverty’s impact on children, see page 58.

## Child Poverty Rate



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2005-2011

## Prevalance of Disability Characteristics

Population Demographic	2009	2010	2011
<b>Under 5 Years</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>224</b>
Hearing Difficulty	118	123	179
Vision Difficulty	0	312	80
Cognitive Difficulty	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ambulatory Difficulty	N/A	N/A	N/A
Self-Care Difficulty	N/A	N/A	N/A
Independent Living Difficulty	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>5 - 17 Years</b>	<b>4,641</b>	<b>5,308</b>	<b>8,234</b>
Hearing Difficulty	600	925	1,375
Vision Difficulty	480	946	1,062
Cognitive Difficulty	3,547	3,795	6,135
Ambulatory Difficulty	301	481	1,015
Self-Care Difficulty	872	884	1,701
Independent Living Difficulty	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>18 - 64 Years</b>	<b>36,487</b>	<b>42,870</b>	<b>42,646</b>
Hearing Difficulty	8,241	10,795	10,507
Vision Difficulty	5,025	7,102	5,625
Cognitive Difficulty	14,804	18,450	19,567
Ambulatory Difficulty	16,172	19,182	18,718
Self-Care Difficulty	4,701	5,739	6,817
Independent Living Difficulty	9,799	11,814	13,567
<b>65+ Years</b>	<b>19,284</b>	<b>20,878</b>	<b>23,333</b>
Hearing Difficulty	8,078	9,875	11,220
Vision Difficulty	3,337	3,822	4,519
Cognitive Difficulty	3,696	3,880	5,287
Ambulatory Difficulty	11,795	12,033	13,202
Self-Care Difficulty	3,813	3,752	2,687
Independent Living Difficulty	7,093	9,289	8,807
<b>TOTAL DISABLED POPULATION</b>	<b>60,530</b>	<b>69,440</b>	<b>74,437</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Colorado Department of Education

**This table** shows the number of people within the Colorado Springs MSA who have reported various fields of disabilities in 2009, 2010 and 2011. For children under the age of 5 years, only hearing and vision difficulty are collected through this source.

**Why is this important?** Ensuring that people with disabilities have the education and accommodations they need to achieve the highest level of independence and success allows them to effectively contribute to our community. Individuals in our community require various types of assistance, and the predominant disability changes by age group. To ensure this increasing population has access to support, our current system can expect more demand in the coming years.

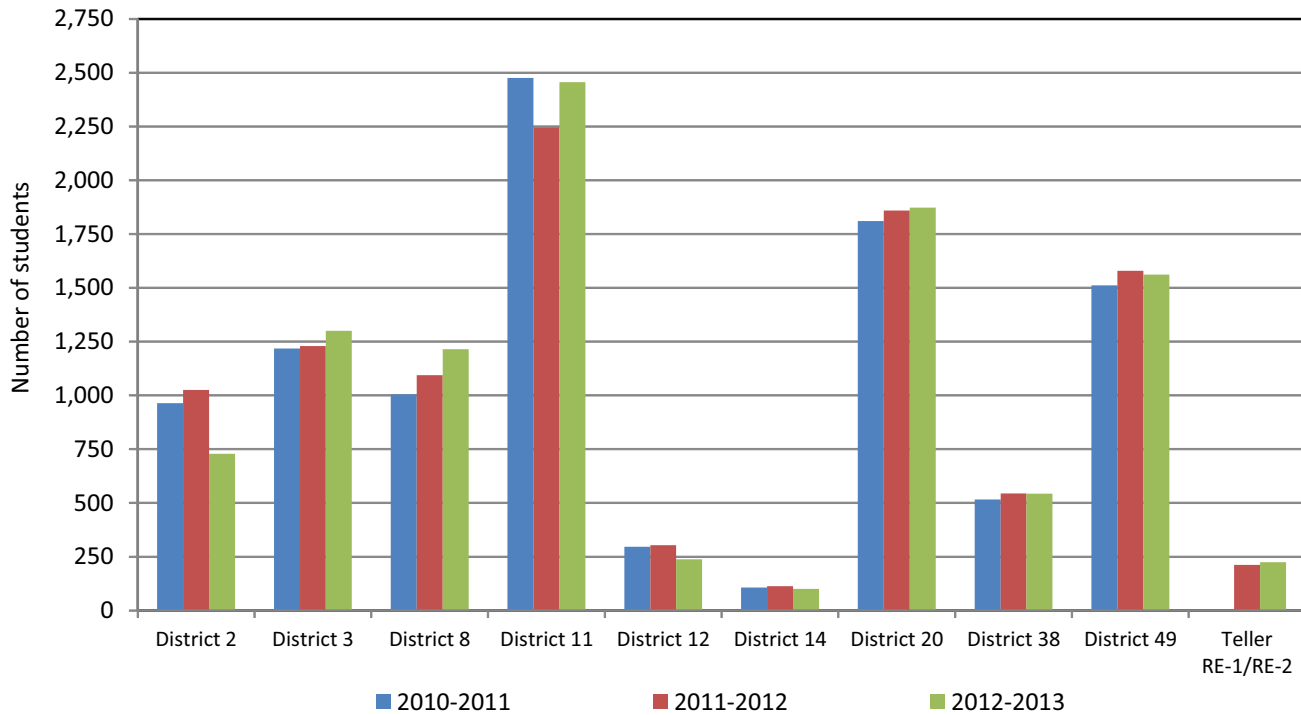
### How are we doing?

Since 2009, our community experienced nearly a 19 percent increase in our disabled population. Cognitive difficulty is the top reported category for children 5-17, creating increased service and support needs for children within the public school system, including those enrolled in special education. Cognitive difficulty is also the top reported category for ages 18-64. The top reported category for people ages 65 or older is ambulatory difficulty.



Photograph courtesy of Pikes Peak United Way

# Special Education Enrollment



Source: Colorado Department of Education

This chart compares the number of students enrolled in special education programs across area school districts.



Photograph by Don Jones

### Why is this important?

Numerous children in our community require specialized assistance and services based on a variety of disabilities. Ensuring that people with disabilities have the education and accommodations they need to achieve their highest level of independence and success allows them to more effectively contribute to the economic and social well-being of our community.

### How are we doing?

Significant learning disability and speech or language impairment are consistently the highest-reported disability categories across the districts. The percentage of special education students as compared to total student enrollment ranges from 6.6 to 14.2 percent across the various districts.



# Housing Cost Burden



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys 2008-2011

**The chart** shows the percentage of households in the Colorado Springs MSA paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing. Those without a mortgage (the blue bar) may still spend considerable income on property tax, homeowners insurance and maintenance.

**Why is this important?**

Households that are burdened by housing costs are in great jeopardy of becoming homeless should there be job loss or other unanticipated financial hardships in the household.

**How are we doing?**

Affordable housing is defined as costing 30 percent of income or less. An average of 47 percent of renter households over the past seven years are burdened by their housing costs.

# Affordable Housing Waitlists

Program	Wait List	Percent with Children	Percent with Disability	Percent with Elderly
Section 8 Housing	3,085	53%	40%	17%
Public Housing	1,513	38%	38%	25%

Source: Colorado Springs Housing Authority

**The tables** show data from the 2012 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and Public Housing programs run by the Colorado Springs Housing Authority. This is a federal program which assists tenants in paying rent and utility payments on homes or apartments in the private market. Participants pay 30 percent of their adjusted gross income for rent to the landlord, and federal funds are used to

pay the remaining rent. In addition, the Housing Authority manages more than 700 public housing units in Colorado Springs. Participants pay the Housing Authority 30 percent of their adjusted gross income for rent. More than 4,500 individuals/families are on the waiting list for these programs. 82 percent are extremely low income.

**Why is this important?**

Affordable housing is a basic need.

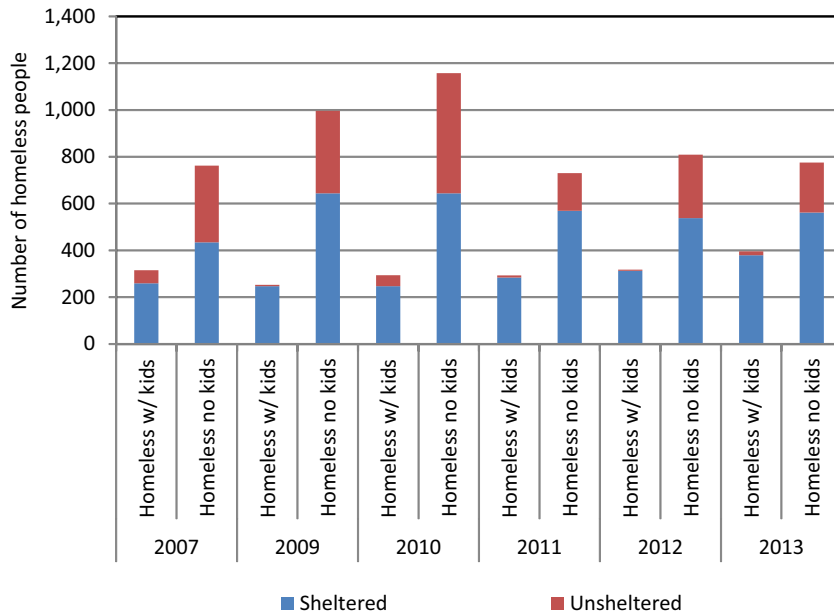
**How are we doing?**

The wait time for these programs averages more than five years. Section 8 Housing has been closed for new applicants since October 2010. Affordable housing programs have experienced funding reduction in recent years and that, coupled with sequestration and proposed future cuts to these programs, impacts existing and potential capacity to address the need for affordable housing in our region. There are other income-based/affordable rental housing options in El Paso County but the Colorado Springs Housing Authority is the largest provider of affordable housing in the city. This data shows the significant gaps between need for and the lack of availability of housing. Recent fires have increased demand for existing rental housing.



**For more information** on housing variety, see page 26.

# Point in Time Homeless Counts



**This chart** shows homeless counts from point-in-time surveys, a one-day snapshot of homelessness completed every January in El Paso County. The surveys are required by the federal office of Housing and Urban Development. The chart divides homeless individuals into those who are sheltered (i.e. emergency shelters, transitional housing) or unsheltered (i.e. living in cars, on the streets or in camps.) The point-in-time count does not show the number of homeless who are living with friends, or “sofa surfing.”

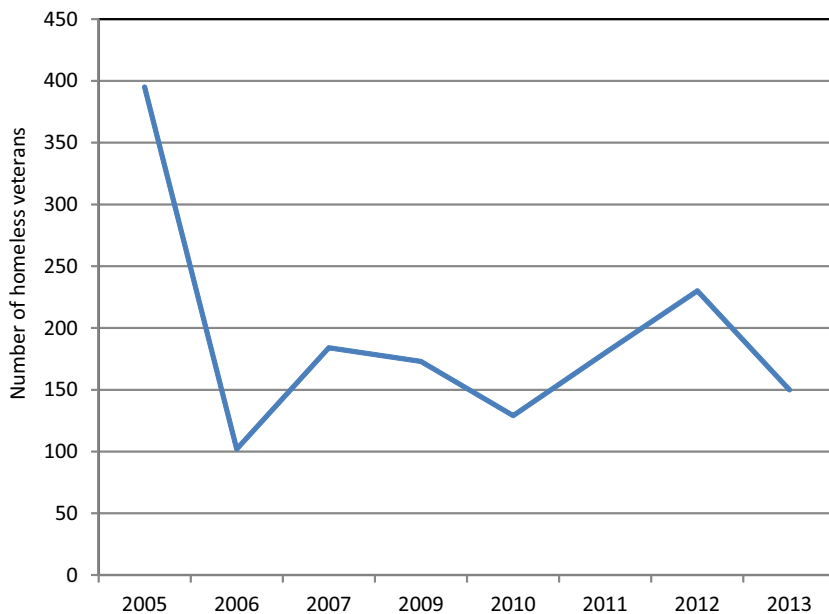
**The second chart** shows the number of homeless veterans in the point-in-time count.

### Why is this important?

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the cost of homelessness can be quite high. Hospitalization, medical treatment, incarceration, policy intervention and emergency shelter expenses can add up quickly, making homelessness expensive for municipalities and taxpayers. Many factors influence homelessness, such as a shortage of affordable housing, livable income and access to health care.

Children who are homeless are four times more likely to be sick than other children, twice as likely to go hungry, four times more likely to have a developmental delay, and significantly more likely to experience a violent event, according to the National Center of Family Homelessness.

A large number of displaced and at-risk veterans live with lingering effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and substance abuse, which are compounded by a lack of family and social support networks. Additionally, personal life skills and professional experiences can, at times, create a challenge for transition into the civilian workforce and community.



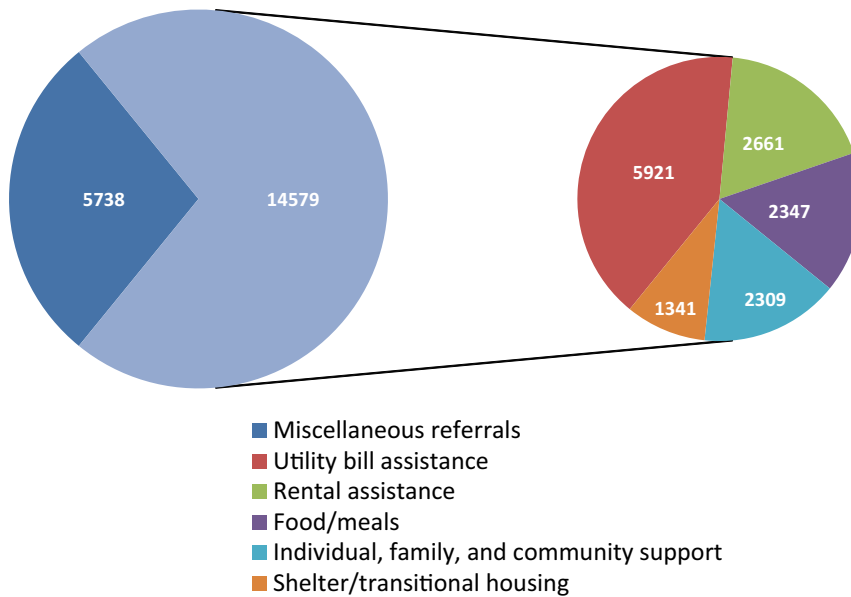
Source for both charts: Pikes Peak United Way Homeless Management Information Systems

### How are we doing?

The total point-in-time count reached a peak of 1,463 in 2010. The total has not dropped below 1,000 since that year. The veteran homeless population dropped dramatically in 2013 thanks to additional federal programs such as the Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing program and Supportive Services for Veteran Families.

# United Way 2-1-1 Information and Referral Statistics

## 2012-13 Fiscal Year Top 5 Needs



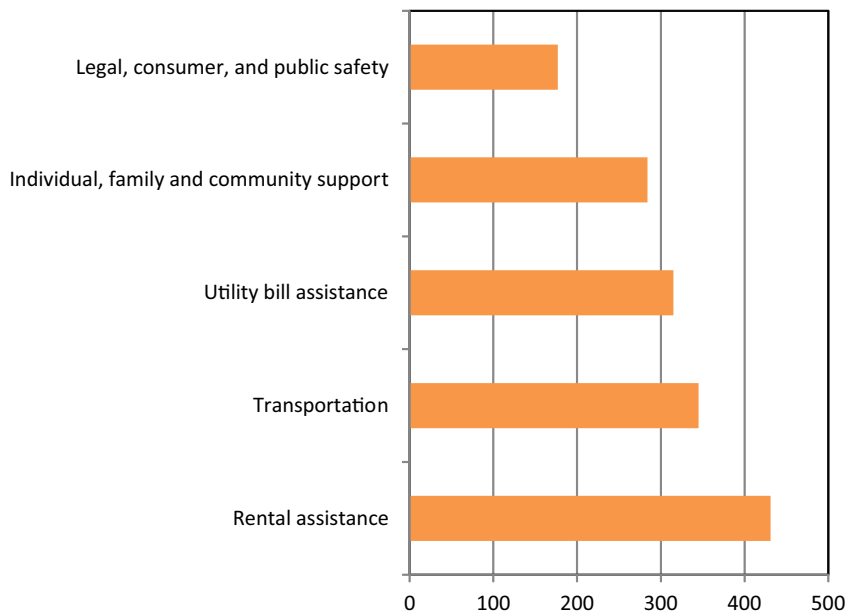
**The first chart** shows the top five requested needs from clients calling Pikes Peak United Way's 2-1-1 Information and Referral line. 2-1-1 provides free, confidential information and referral for health and human service needs in El Paso, Teller, Cheyenne, Chaffee, Park and Lincoln counties and the San Luis Valley.

**The second chart** shows unmet needs in our community. An unmet need can be a lack of services in the database to give to clients or it can mean that a client is not eligible for that particular service based on each agency's specific criteria for assistance.

### Why is this important?

2-1-1 requests provide us a snapshot of self-identified needs in our community.

## 2012-13 Fiscal Year Service Gaps



Source for both charts: Pikes Peak United Way 2-1-1 Information and Referral

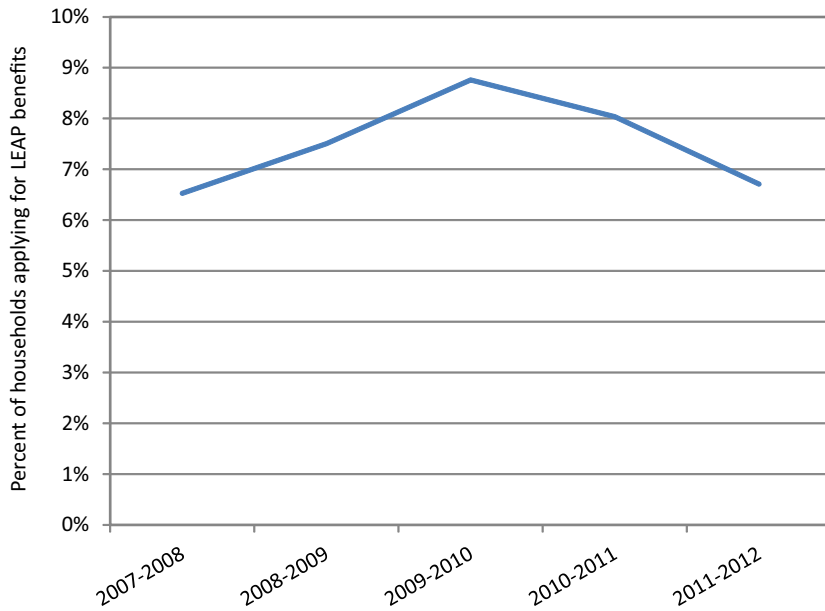


### How are we doing?

In 2012, 2-1-1 took more than 30,000 calls. Since 2-1-1's inception in 2004, utility bill assistance remains the top presenting need, followed by rental assistance, food and meals, and community services. The number of calls to 2-1-1 grew by 7 percent between 2011 and 2012. Of the 30,362 calls received, 52 percent were first time callers, 74 percent women, 11 percent seniors, 32 percent disabled, 31 percent unemployed and 31 percent uninsured. Rental assistance is the largest service gap that 2-1-1 struggles to refer callers. This gap is followed by transportation, utility bill assistance, individual and family support, and legal, consumer and public safety concerns.

# Public Assistance

## Low-Income Energy Assistance Program



Source: El Paso County LEAP Program

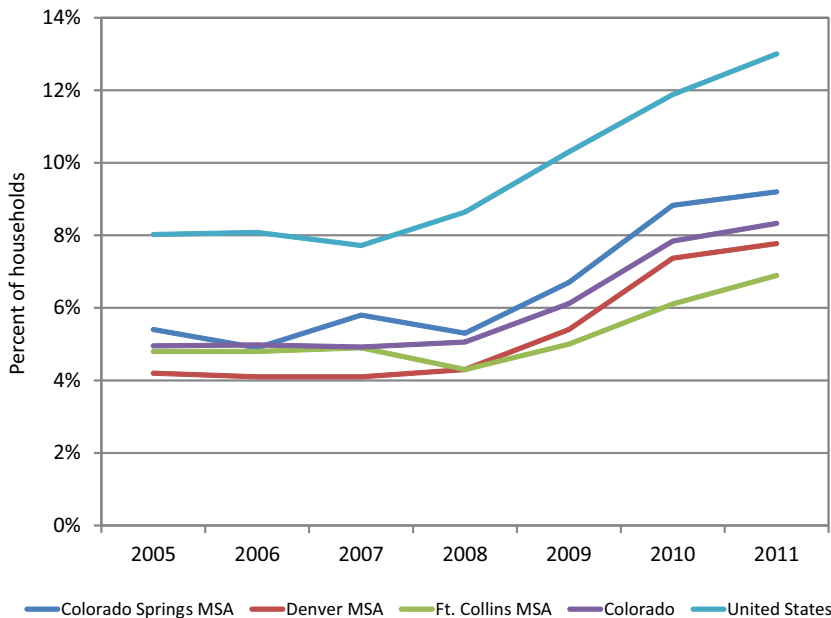
**The first chart** shows the percentage of Colorado Springs MSA households requesting public assistance with utilities bills through the Low-income Energy Assistance Program. LEAP is a federally-funded program designed to help eligible low-income households with home heating costs from November 1 – April 30 each year. Households are eligible for LEAP benefits at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

**The second chart** shows the percent of households in the Colorado Springs MSA receiving public assistance for food through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps. Households are eligible for SNAP benefits if their income is 130 percent of the federal poverty index and below.

### Why is this important?

Adequate heating and nutrition are two of the most basic components of social wellbeing, “a state of affairs where the basic needs of the population are met.”

## Food Stamps/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

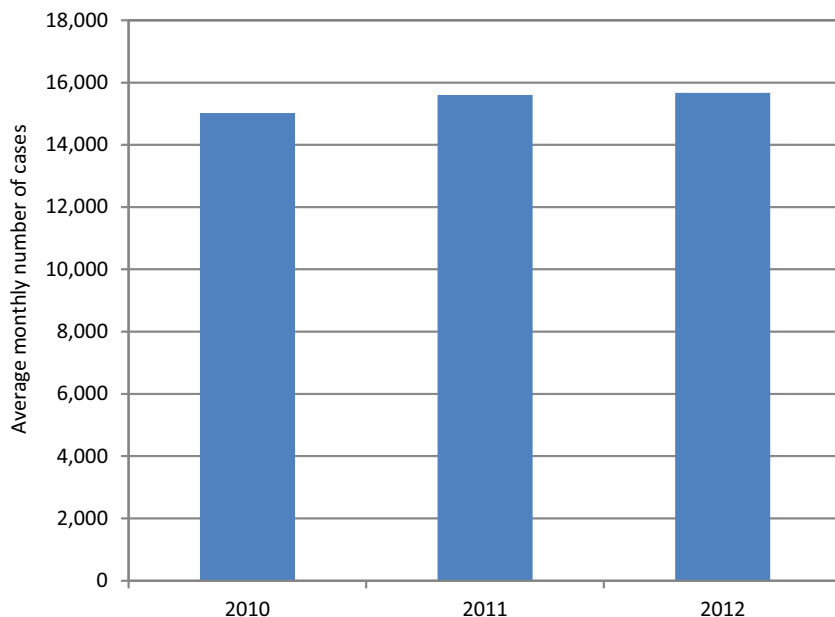
### How are we doing?

The chart shows a decrease in LEAP assistance, due to a change in LEAP eligibility. In 2011, LEAP eligibility decreased from 185 to 150 percent of the poverty level. As a result, the number of eligible families and applications has decreased even though the need for assistance may not have. Annually, LEAP approves approximately 79 percent of the applications it receives. In the 2011-2012 heating season, the El Paso and Teller County LEAP Program provided assistance for 13,116 households. The SNAP benefits chart shows an increased percentage of use higher than Denver, Ft. Collins and even the state. In 2011, the average number of households receiving SNAP benefits was 22,755.



# Food Assistance

## Women, Infants and Children Program



Source: El Paso County Public Health Department

**This chart** shows the average monthly number of WIC recipients in the Colorado Springs MSA. This program serves low-income pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, and infants and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk.

### Why is this important?

WIC participants receive supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education and counseling and screening and referrals to other health and social services. Numerous studies have shown that pregnant women who participate in WIC have longer pregnancies leading to fewer premature births; have fewer low birth-weight babies; experience fewer fetal and infant deaths; seek prenatal care earlier in pregnancy and consume more of key nutrients.

### How are we doing?

In 2011, there were 26,009 new WIC clients and 27,022 in 2012.

**The second chart** shows the number of meals served to Colorado Springs Housing Authority's Golden Circle Nutrition Program and Silver Key Senior Service's Meals on Wheels clients, the largest two senior meal programs in the area.

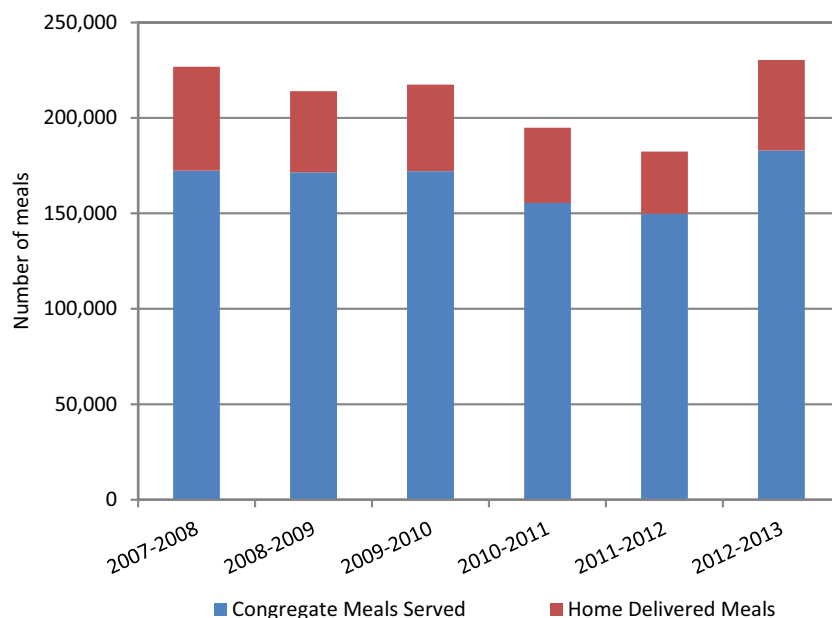
### Why is this important?

Many seniors face financial, functional or transportation barriers to getting adequate nutrition on a daily basis. Meal assistance can allow seniors to maintain independence. For the homebound, the interaction with the volunteers who deliver the meals may be the only personal contact they receive throughout their day. Group dining programs provide opportunities for social interaction and mentally-stimulating activities while decreasing isolation and depression.

### How are we doing?

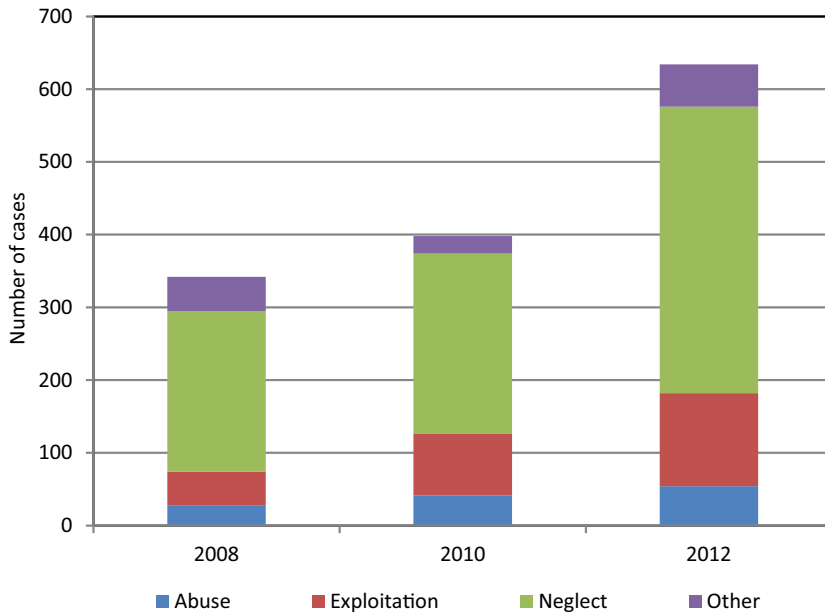
The Golden Circle Nutrition Program, run by the Housing Authority of the City of Colorado Springs, served 183,000 meals at 26 locations from Colorado Springs to Victor. Silver Key Senior Services delivered 47,395 meals last year to Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs seniors. Last year Golden Circle Nutrition served 18 percent more meals and Silver Key served 47 percent more meals than the previous year.

## Golden Circle and Meals on Wheels Senior Meals



Source: Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging, Silver Key Senior Services, Colorado Springs Housing Authority

# Adult Protective Services



Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

**This chart** shows the number and type of Colorado Springs MSA adult protection cases. Adult protection is defined as serving disabled persons over the age of 18 or the elderly.

The chart shows four categories: abuse (physical, self and sexual), exploitation (financial and other), neglect (self and other) and other cases. The National Center for Elder Abuse defines elder mistreatment as intentional actions that cause harm or create a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable elder by a caregiver or other person who stands in a trust relationship to the elder. This includes failure by a caregiver to satisfy the elder’s basic needs or to protect the elder from harm.

### Why is this important?

Elder and disabled financial exploitation—commonly linked with other forms of abuse and neglect—threatens the health,

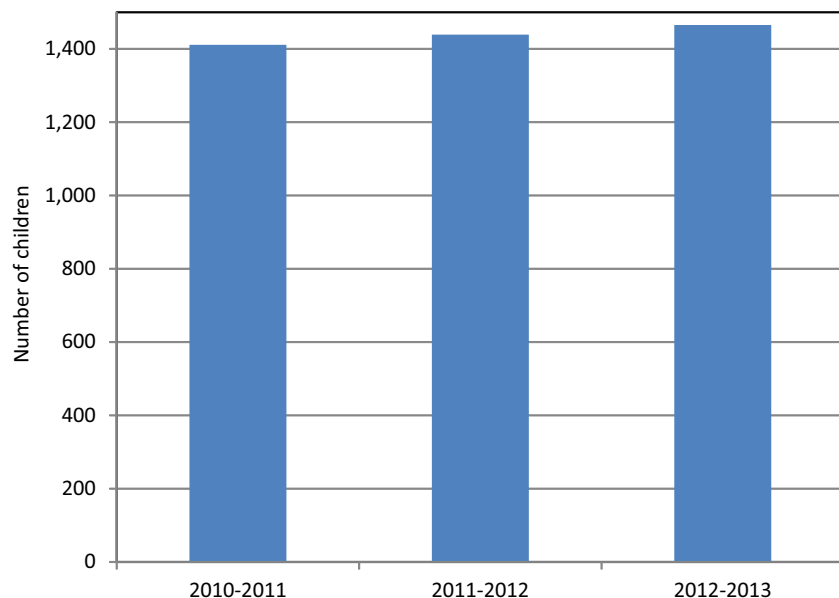
dignity, and economic security of millions of Americans. Elders who experienced abuse, even modest abuse, had a 300 percent higher risk of death when compared to those who had not been abused. Research has also shown that victims of elder abuse have had significantly higher levels of psychological distress and lower perceived self-efficacy than older adults who have not been victimized. In addition, older adults who are victims of violence have additional health care problems compared to other older adults, including increased bone or joint problems, digestive problems, depression or anxiety, chronic pain, high blood pressure and heart problems.

The impact of abuse, neglect, and exploitation also has a profound fiscal cost. The direct medical costs associated with violent injuries to older adults are estimated to add over \$5.3 billion to the nation’s annual health expenditures, and the annual financial loss by victims of elder financial exploitation were estimated to be \$2.9 billion in 2009, a 12 percent increase from 2008.

### How are we doing?

The chart shows an increase of cases opened over previous years. In 2012, the El Paso and Teller Counties Department of Human Services received 1,043 referrals for Adult Protection services. Of those referrals, 573 became active cases. Of those cases, over 50 percent constitute neglect. However, according to the National Elder Abuse Incidence Study (National Center on Elder Abuse, 1998), an estimated 84 percent of incidents are not reported to authorities, denying victims the protection and support they need.

## Out-of-Home Placements



Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

**The first chart** shows the number of children per fiscal year in the Colorado Springs MSA living in out-of-home situations for any duration, often referred to as foster care.

### Why is this important?

It is important that children live in safety and stability. While there are situations that require out-of-home placement, the best long-term outcomes for a child and family (and the greatest cost savings for these interventions) are achieved if a family can remain intact.

### How are we doing?

Though the chart seems to indicate an increase in out-of-home placements, when compared with the total population in the MSA, there was actually a slight decrease in per capita out-of-home placements.

**The second chart** compares the number of households in which grandparents identify themselves as raising their grandchildren in three MSAs: Colorado Springs, Denver and Ft. Collins. These may include three-generation households (those that include grandparents, parents and grandchildren) and skipped-generation households (those that include grandparents and grandchildren only.)

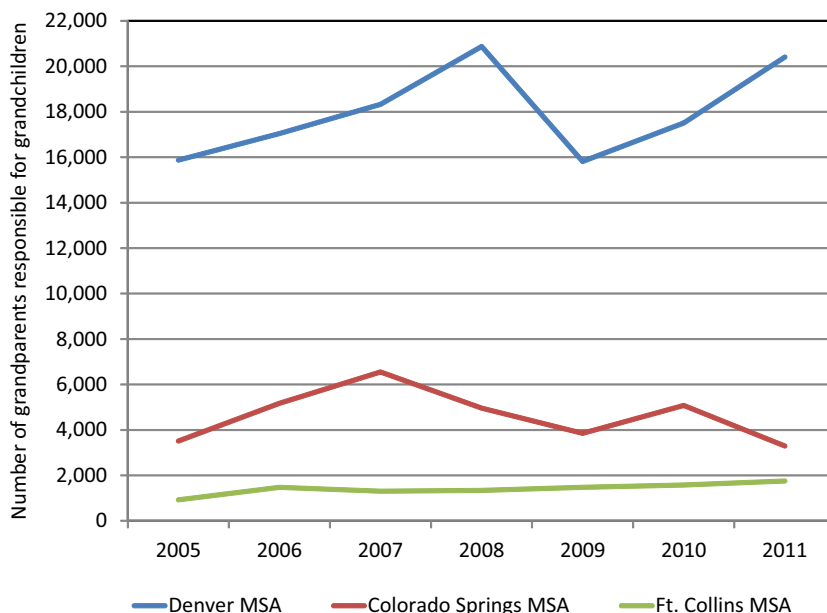
### Why is this important?

Difficult family circumstances often lead to custodial grandparent care, and these grandchildren have higher levels of emotional and behavioral problems than children in the overall population. Custodial grandparents face a wide array of stressors, including strained relationships with birth parents, social stigma, financial pressure and their own increasing aging-related health concerns.

### How are we doing?

In the Colorado Springs MSA, the number of grandparents raising grandchildren peaked in 2007 and steadily declined until 2009, when the number nearly doubled, and then declined again in 2011. In contrast, both Ft. Collins and Denver's numbers have consistently increased since 2009.

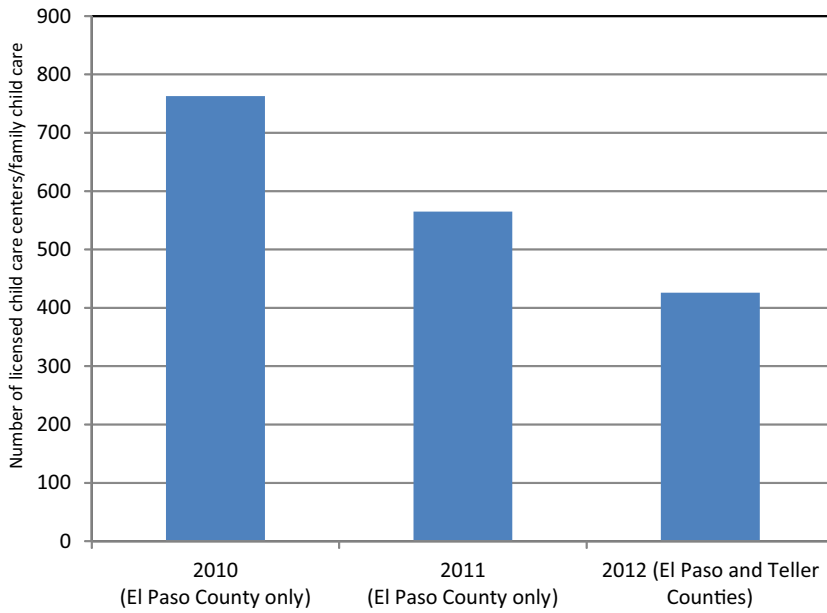
## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Child Care

## Number of Child Care Providers



Source: Colorado Children's Campaign, Danielle Grier

**The chart** shows the number of licensed child care centers and child care homes operating in the Colorado Springs MSA.

**The graph** shows the percentage of child care centers that received high-quality ratings through a state or national accreditation program.

### Why is this important?

Recent research has linked high-quality child care to improved outcomes in education and social responsibility. Additionally, a national report indicated that money invested in high-quality early childhood education has a significant positive return for taxpayers.

According to a Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments study, a lack of child care in the region would cause at least one household member to exit the workforce or reduce hours, costing the average household \$27,000 per year and reducing the productivity of the workforce.

### How are we doing?

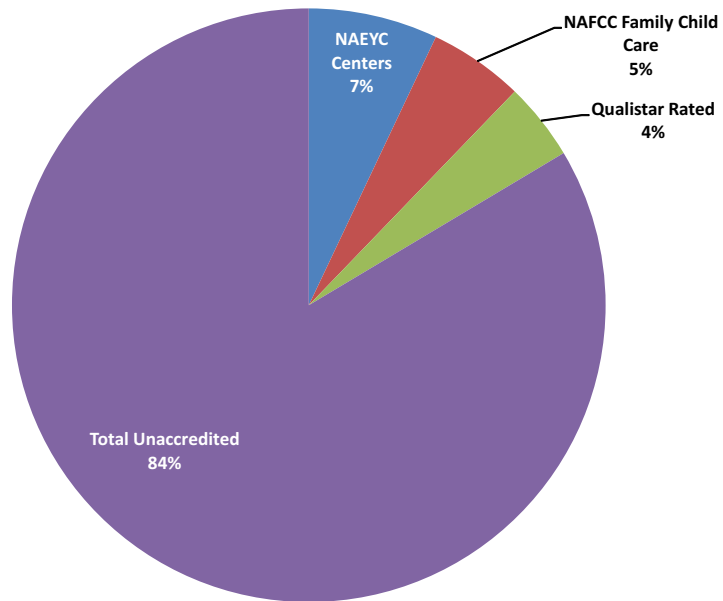
The chart shows a decrease in available child care, even while the area's under-5 population grew by 13,341 from 2008-2011. This may be due to changes in the administration of the Federal Child Care Assistance Program, as well as a growing need for flexible-hour child care, rising unemployment, and an inability to pay for child care.

Of the current 100 licensed child care centers in the Colorado Springs MSA, only 30 are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children as "high-quality." Of the 326 home-based child care services, only 22 are accredited by the National Association for Family Child Care as high-quality.



**For more information** on unemployment, see page 47.

## Child Care Accreditation

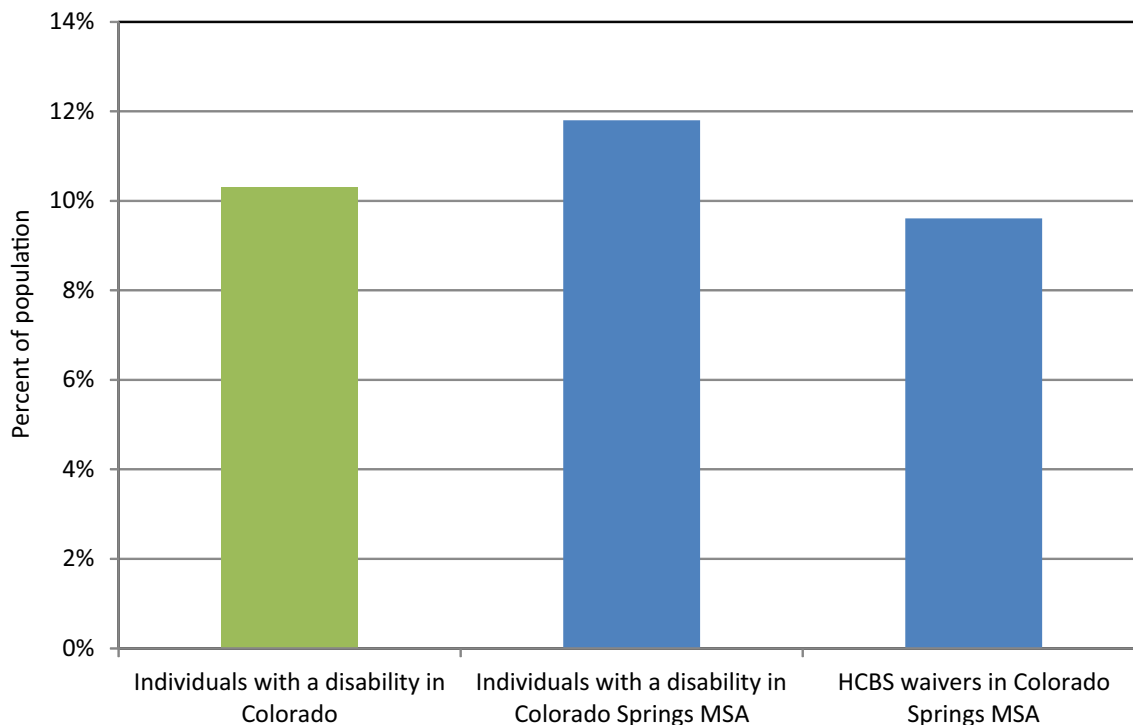


Source: Qualistar, NAEYC, NAFCC



# Disability Waivers

## Home and Community-Based Services Waivers



Source: Interviews with Natalie Mathewson, Lois Jacobs and Laura Thomas, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, U.S. Census Bureau

**This chart** shows the 2012 percentage of the statewide disabled population living in the Colorado Springs MSA in comparison with the percentage of HCBS waivers issued to those residents. Home and Community Based Service Waivers are offered by the State of Colorado and are partially funded by Medicaid. The HCBS Waiver provides a wide array of community services to assist individuals who are eligible for Medicaid and have disabilities. Services may be available on a limited basis to individuals living with family caregivers or may be provided outside the home.

### Why is this important?

Many individuals with disabilities and their families rely on programs such as the Home and Community Based Waiver to care for special needs.

### How are we doing?

We have a higher percentage of disabled persons than the state, yet a lower use of waivers. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 11.8 percent of citizens in the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area have a disability, compared to the 10.3 percent statewide average. While 14 percent of disabled Colorado residents live in the Colorado Springs MSA, only 9.6 percent of the HCBS state-wide waivers are issued here. The lower rate of service use may be because individuals with disabilities are unaware of the services, do not have access to services, do not meet eligibility qualifications, or are currently on a waiting list for funding.

# Transportation

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Green Cities Coalition

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Amblicab

**JOHN NUWER**  
Colorado Springs Citizens Transportation Advisory Board

**TIM ROBERTS**  
City of Colorado Springs

**LISA STREISFELD**  
Colorado Department of Transportation



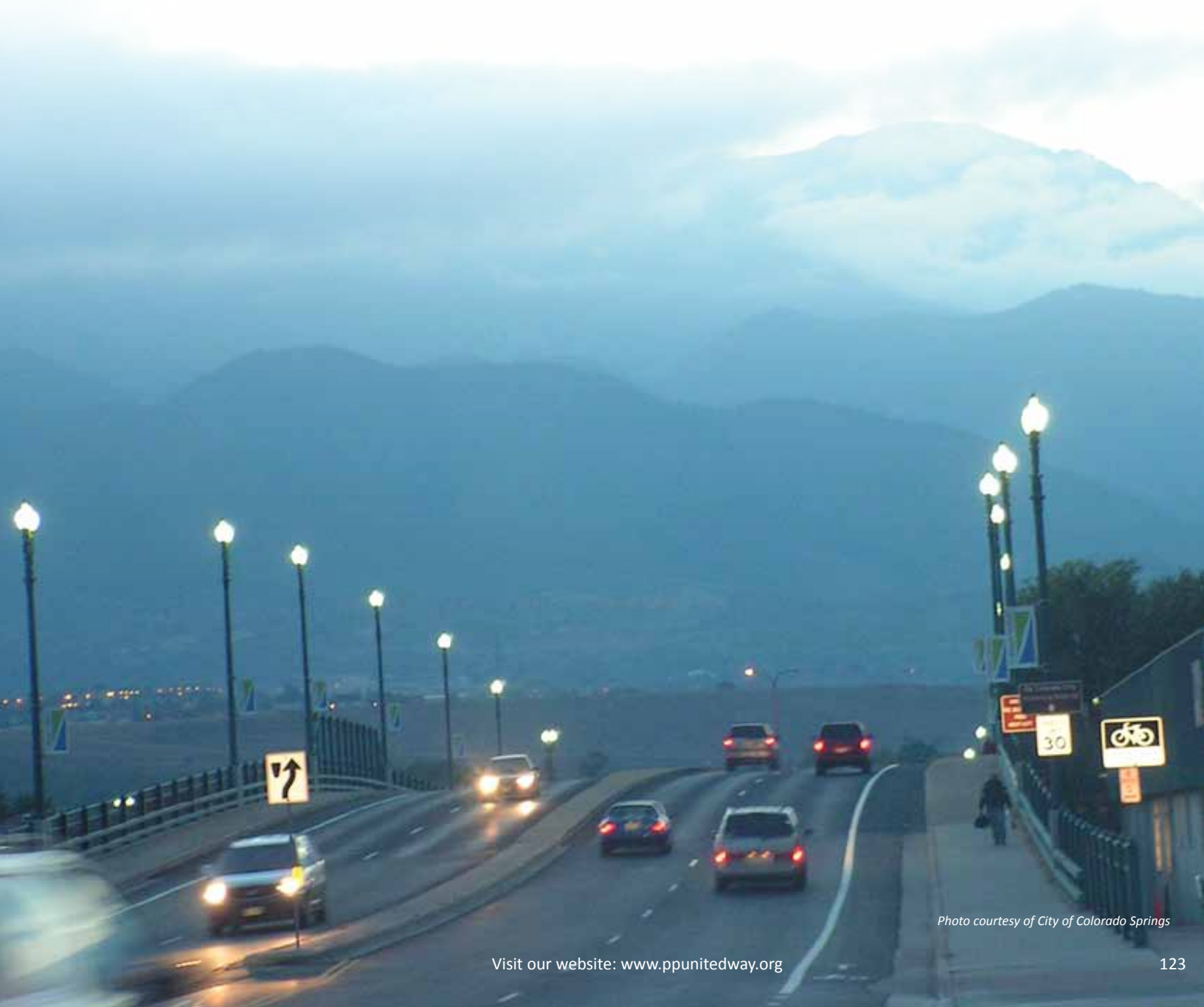
Each day, residents of the Pikes Peak region are faced with decisions on how to best get from point A to point B. Students may walk to class, parents may take their mini-van to school, then work, and some may decide it is a nice day for a bike ride. Each decision on how to move about the region impacts our transportation system in some way.

A robust transportation system is important to quality of life because it is vital to the economy and touches every resident of the region.

Thanks in part to voter approval of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority, the region gets good grades for bridge maintenance. Our lack of a robust public transit system, however, continues to be an area in need of major improvement. Transit plays an important role in moving seniors, young people and low-income residents around the region and can significantly boost the economy.

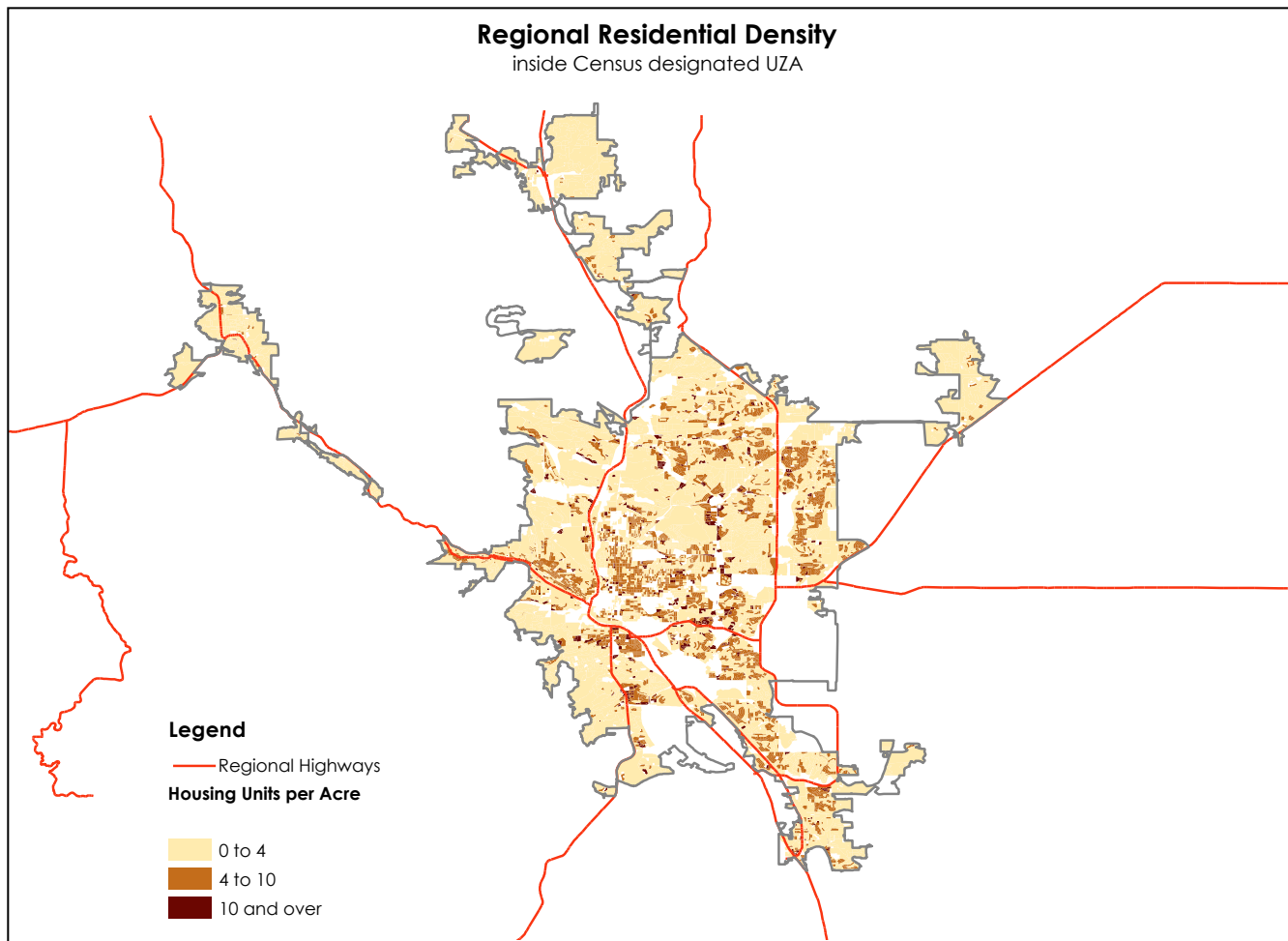
The purpose of this section is to illuminate and describe the key features of the transportation system in the region, and to identify issues which require the community's attention.

It is important to note that in addition to those indicators we have tracked, there are other trends and ideas to watch out for in the future. How is the aging population going to move around the region? What impact is the natural environment going to play in shaping our transportation system in the coming decades? What ways can community leaders use transportation investments to attract economic activity?



*Photo courtesy of City of Colorado Springs*

## Residential Density



*Source: Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments and U.S. Census Bureau Data, 2010*

**This map** shows the residential density of our region using housing units per acre. The gray outline is the U.S. Census-designated urbanized area, and the red lines are regional highways. There is a distinct 'urbanized core' of our metropolitan statistical area, and urban clusters, such as Woodland Park, that surround this area.

### Why is this important?

Low-density residential development means that more resources (streets, utilities, etc.) are needed to span a greater distance to serve all those in the region. This decreases our efficiency and increases costs. As population grows, if this level of density is maintained, our efficiency will only further decrease as people continue to choose low-density residential areas. Low-density housing means more miles of roadway, farther travel distances, increased range of utilities, service sprawl and difficulty sustaining a public transit system.

### How are we doing?

According to a 2012 Urban Land Institute analysis, density in Colorado Springs is low. Our large land area and low density make supporting a robust public transit system very difficult.

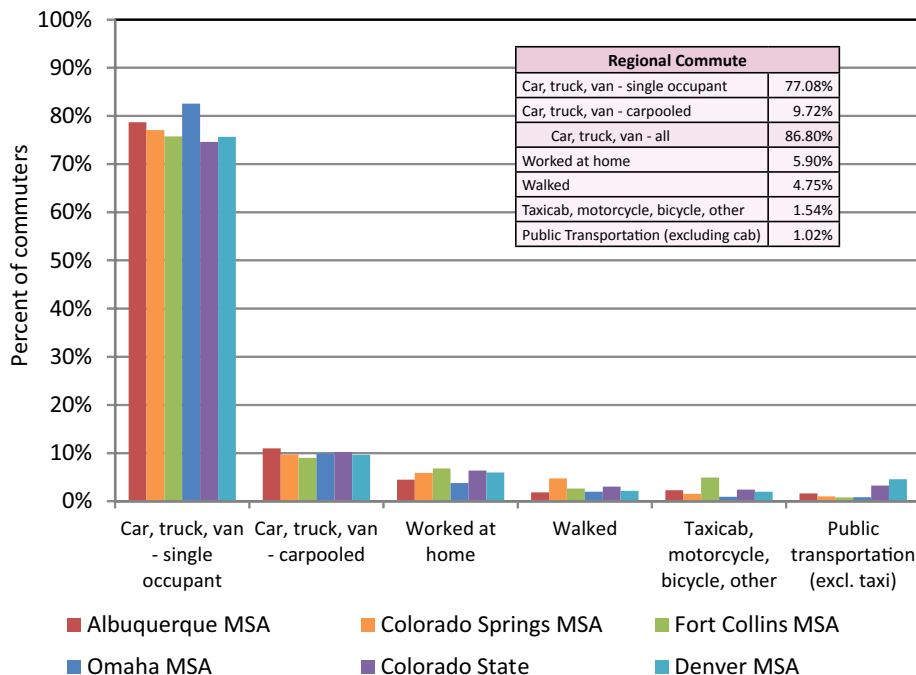


**For more information** on land use and planning, see pages 23-25.



# Commuter Mode Share

## Total Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Surveys

The first chart compares how Colorado Springs MSA commuters get to work with comparison cities.

### Why is this important?

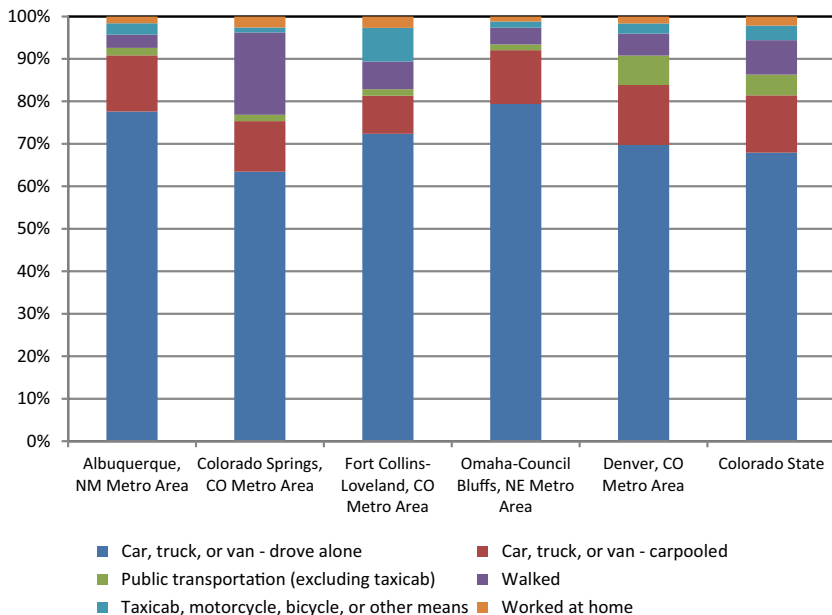
Diversity of transportation reduces strain on any one part of the system, particularly during peak travel times. Alternatives to single-occupant vehicles bring benefits such as better air quality, a fitter population, and provide transportation options for individuals who cannot afford a personal vehicle.

### How are we doing?

Commuters in the Colorado Springs MSA, like all of the other comparison cities, vastly prefer to travel in single-occupant vehicles. More than three quarters of our commuters take their own car to and from work. One in 10 commuters carpools to and from work. It is notable that almost 5

percent of commuters in our region walk to work, the highest percentage of all comparison cities.

## 16-24 Year Olds



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Surveys

The second chart shows a key segment of future commuters. As is the case around the country, transportation planning has looked at the decline in recent years of vehicle miles traveled and determined that the generation dubbed "Millennials," born 1983-2000, drive significantly less than prior generations. This chart compares 16 to 24 year-olds in the region with other cities nationwide.

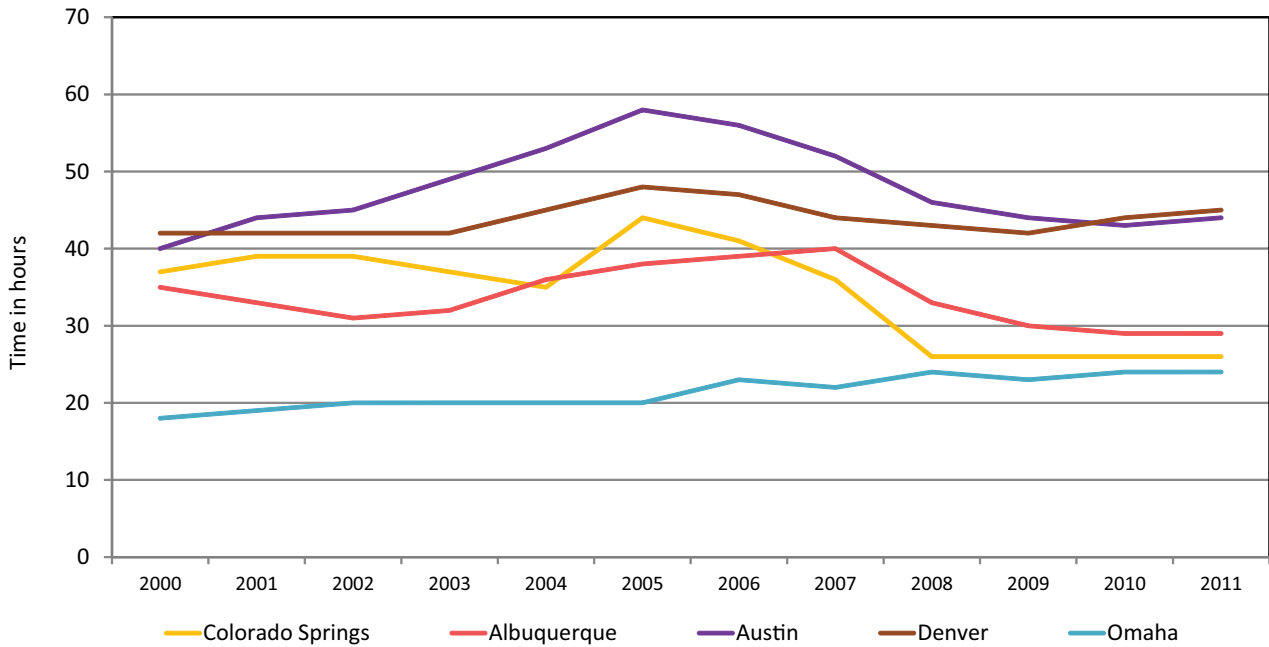
### Why is this important?

This generation's decreased automobile usage shows a dependence on non-automobile transportation. Investing in public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and promoting walkable neighborhoods will be crucial if the region wants to remain a viable place for this generation to locate.

### How are we doing?

The data indicates young adults use non-automobile transportation to get to work significantly more than the area's population as a whole. According to a 2012 Urban Land Institute study, the region has few walkable neighborhoods, mixed-use developments (where people can live and work), and mass transportation options.

## Annual Auto Delay



Source: Texas Transportation Institute Urban Mobility Reports (2006-2011)

**This graph** shows the variation in annual auto delay per commuter in hours. Auto delay is the extra time drivers spent traveling at congested speeds rather than free-flowing speeds.

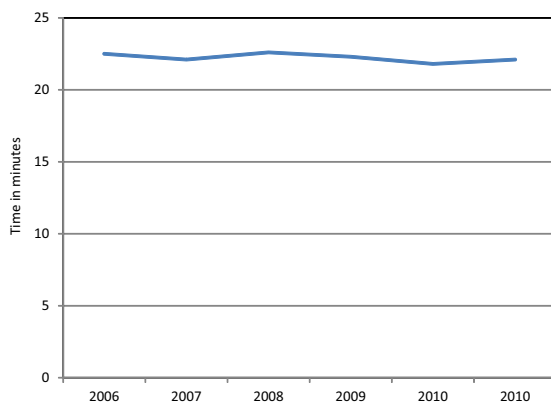
### Why is this important?

Auto delay results in lost time and productivity and lower gas mileage.

### How are we doing?

Regionally, we have a low annual auto delay per commuter. The amount of time commuters spend traveling at congested speeds takes up 45 hours of time annually for Denver residents while Colorado Springs commuters spend only 26 hours annually.

## Average Commute Time



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2011 American Community Surveys

**This chart** shows average time Colorado Springs MSA drivers spent commuting one-way to work.

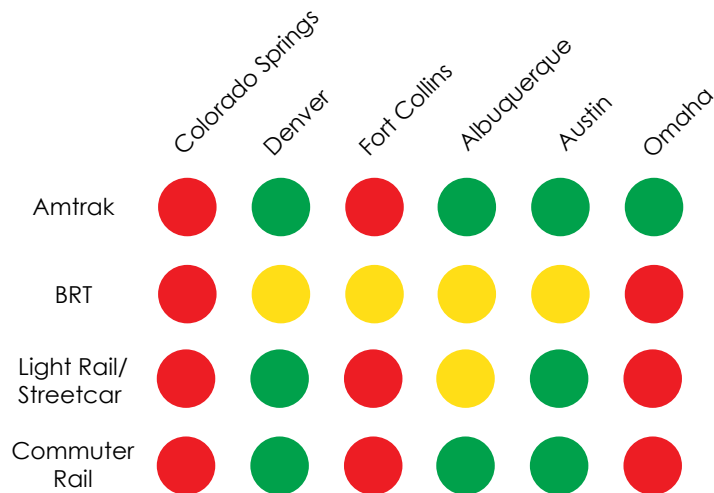
### Why is this important?

Spending less time commuting to and from work allows residents of the Pike Peak region to have more time doing other things.

### How are we doing?

Regionally, our commuting time over the last five years has not drastically changed. Out of our more than 300,000 commuters, the average commuter in the Colorado Springs MSA commutes around 22 minutes (one-way.) In 2006, the average commuter in the Pikes Peak region commuted around 23 minutes.

# Fixed-Guideway Transportation



Source: City Transportation Websites

**This graphic** shows which cities are served by fixed-guideway transit (bus rapid transit, streetcars, light rail, etc.) The red dot indicates no presence, the yellow dot indicates planning study or in construction, and the green dot indicates that service is present in the city.

**Why is this important?**

According to a 2009 streetcar feasibility study, the region misses out on increased connectivity, economic activity and mobility because we do not have fixed-guideway transit service.

**How are we doing?**

Unlike any of our comparison cities, the Colorado Springs MSA has no fixed-guideway transit service.

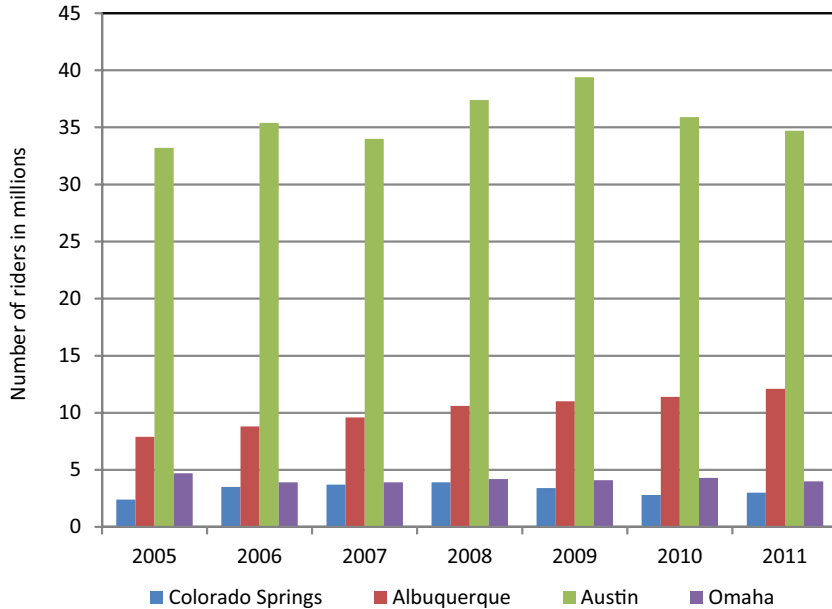


Photograph courtesy of Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

# Transit Coverage

Annual Bus Operating Characteristics	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Vehicle Revenue Miles	4,869,663	5,127,537	5,348,626	5,267,538	4,345,567	4,783,003
Vehicle Revenue Hours	310,619	335,167	360,919	308,170	250,522	263,452

Source: Mountain Metropolitan Transit, National Transit Database



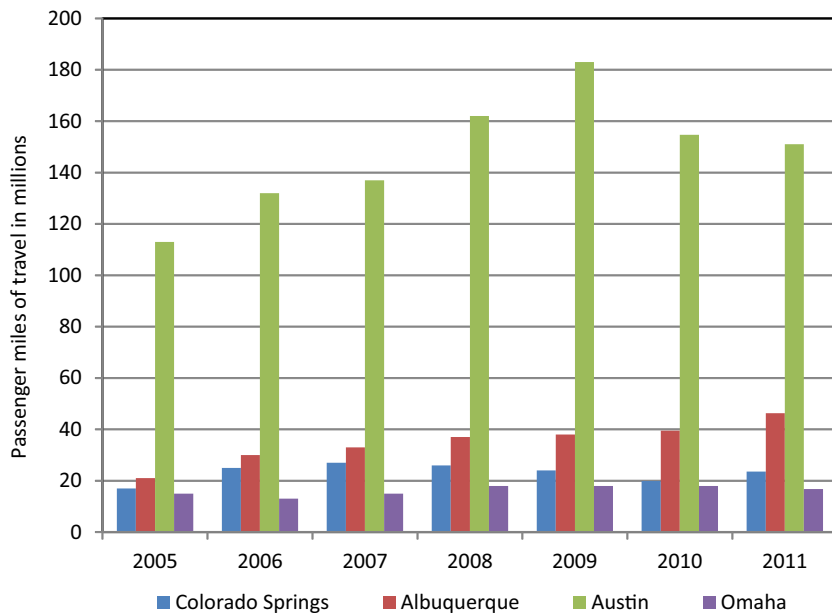
**The first table** shows vehicle revenue miles and vehicle revenue hours by year for Mountain Metropolitan Transit, the area's bus system.

**The second chart** shows millions of riders for Colorado Springs and comparison cities.

**The third chart** shows millions of passenger miles traveled in Colorado Springs and comparison cities.

**Why is this important?**

Examining transit coverage and use in the region is important in understanding the historic and existing usage of the system. It has shown that when there were more hours and miles, ridership increased. As hours and miles of the system decreased, so did ridership, leaving passengers who might otherwise take transit to take trips by other means.



**How are we doing?**

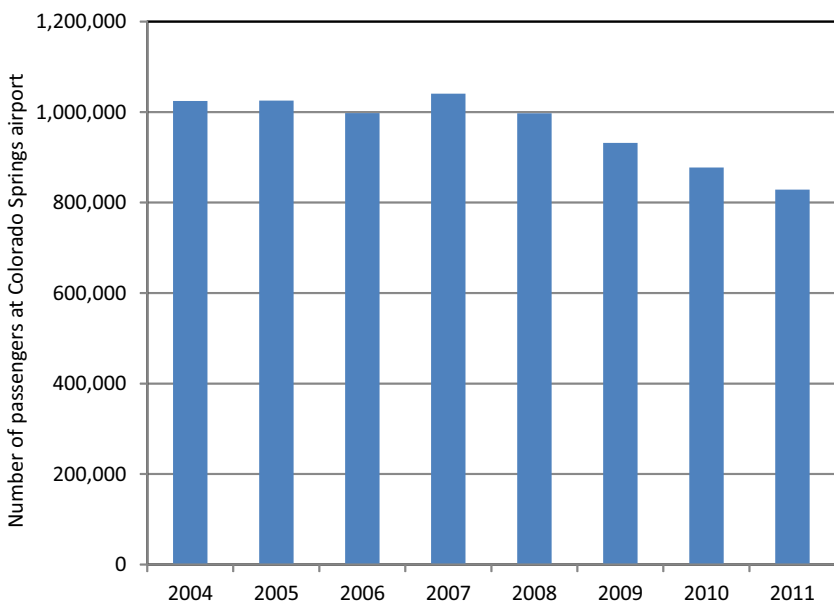
Colorado Springs has significantly fewer annual system riders than comparison cities. Total number of miles and hours has gone up and down in the past few years. This corresponds with the number of annual system passenger miles of travel. Colorado Springs has room for improvement in transit coverage. Increasing the number of vehicle revenue miles and hours would increase ridership, and provide residents an alternative means of travel to the single occupant vehicle, which would in turn decrease congestion, increase air quality, and provide increased mobility for residents around the region.

Source for both charts: National Transit Database



# Airplane Travel

## Air Passenger Statistics



Source: Federal Aviation Administration

**The first chart** shows the number of passengers at the Colorado Springs Airport for 2004-2011.

**The second chart** compares the number of enplaned passengers at the Colorado Springs airport with the number at other airports.

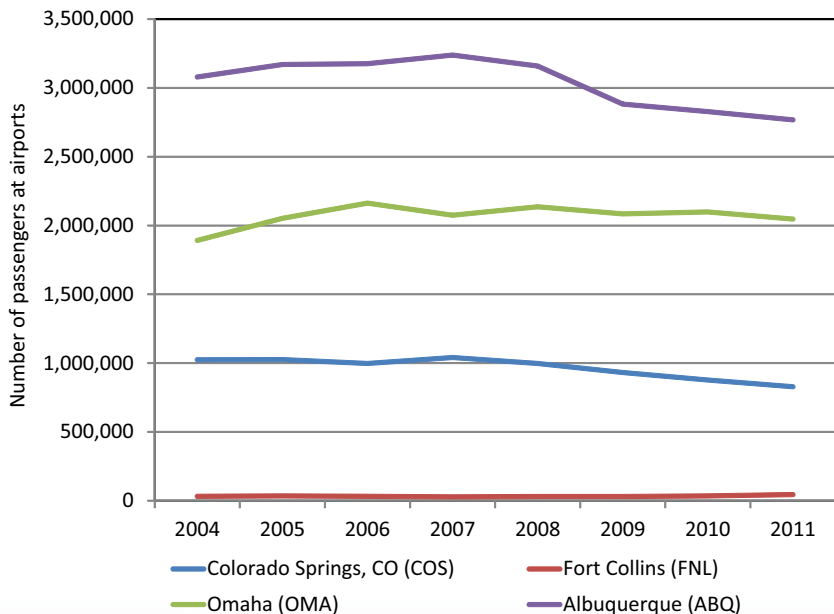
**Why is this important?**

Air travel is important for the mobility of our residents and accessibility of our region for tourists.

**How are we doing?**

The Colorado Springs Airport has seen a significant decline in enplaned passengers since 2004, from more than one million to just over 800,000 in 2011. This may indicate that people are travelling by air less, and/or that people have decided that it is more cost effective to drive to a larger airport (say Denver International Airport) to embark on airplane journeys.

### Enplaned Passengers City Comparison

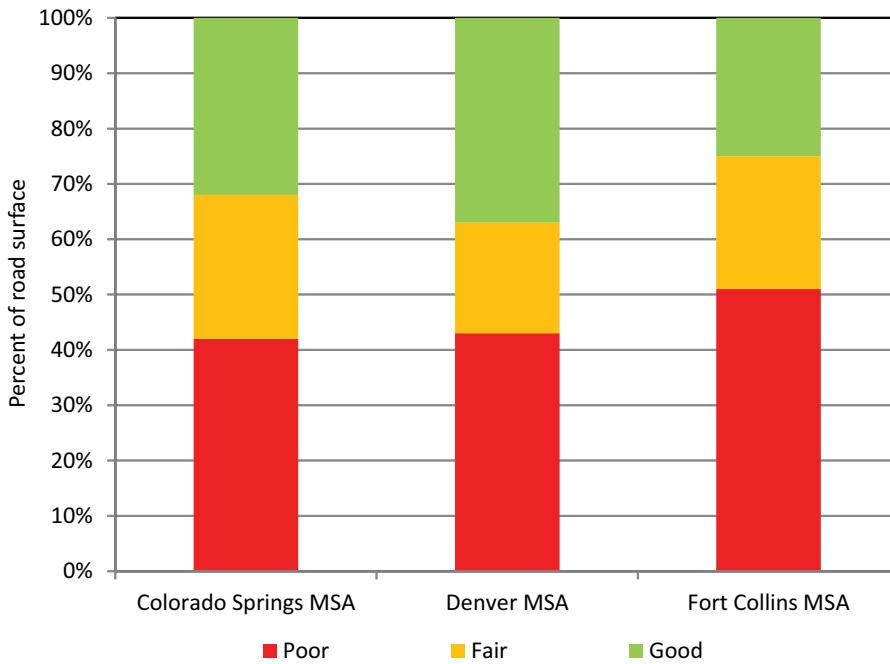


Source: Federal Aviation Administration

All of these airports experienced a drop in the number of enplaned passengers post-2008 and this is generally attributed to the recession.



## Highway Surface Condition



Source: Colorado Department of Transportation

**This graph** compares the highway surface condition for the MSAs of Colorado Springs, Denver and Fort Collins. Green indicates good condition, orange indicates fair condition, and red indicates poor condition.

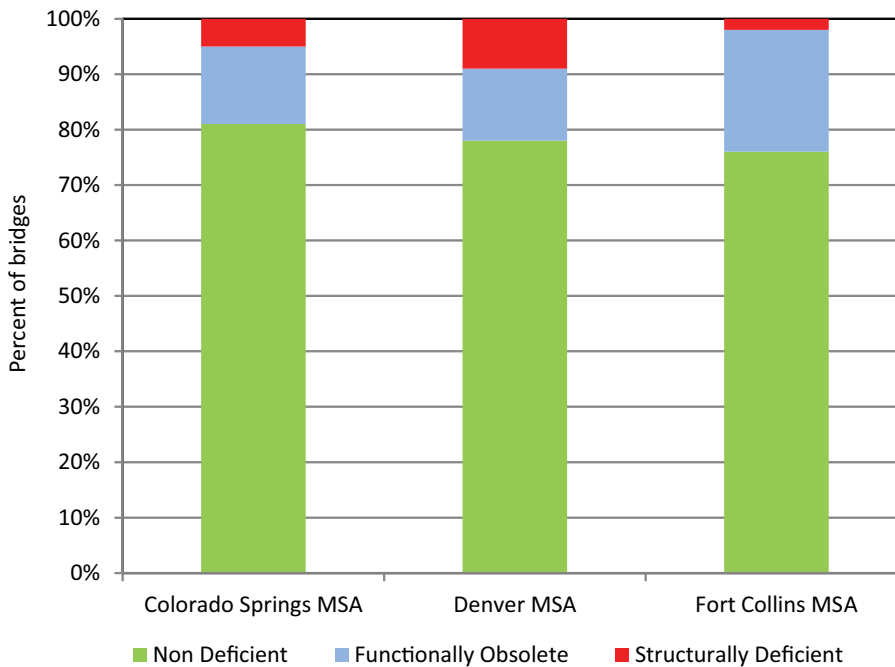
**Why is this important?**

As transportation funding levels decrease and people moving about the region increase, it becomes increasingly important to maintain existing roadways.

**How are we doing?**

The data indicates that the majority (68 percent) of our highway miles are in poor and fair condition. This indicates the necessity for maintenance on these roadways. Compared to Denver and Fort Collins, the Colorado Springs MSA has the second highest percentage of highway miles in good condition, and the lowest percentage of highway miles in poor condition.

## Bridge Condition



Source: Colorado Department of Transportation

**This graph** compares the bridge condition for the MSAs of Colorado Springs, Denver and Fort Collins. Red indicates structurally deficient bridges, blue indicates functionally obsolete bridges, and green indicates non-deficient bridges.

**Why is this important?**

Structurally-sound bridges are key to a reliable transportation system.

**How are we doing?**

More than 4 out of 5 bridges in the Colorado Springs MSA are rated non-deficient, the highest among the Front Range comparison cities. Fort Collins does have a smaller percentage of structurally deficient bridges, and Denver has more than the Colorado Springs MSA.

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